THE SHAKERITE

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Cutting more than money

As Ohio refuses to address school funding, Shaker must make cuts including Take Action and other after-school activities. Together, the federal and state governments are leaving us all behind.

OUR TAKE, PAGE 2
THE FISCAL FACTS, PAGE 4

TEACHING TO THE BEAT

. . . OF HIS OWN DRUM, HISTORY TEACHER ROY ISAACS WILL SCHOOL YOU IN MORE THAN JUST SOCIAL STUDIES.

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GUIDE TO GUIDANCE

EVER WONDERED WHO YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S CELEBRITY CRUSH IS? PROBABLY NOT, BUT WE'LL FILL YOU IN.

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REMEMBERING 'MUNICH'

DAVID BERGER ('62) DIED IN THE 1972 ASSAULT ON ISRAELI OLYMPIC ATHLETES. HIS FATHER REFLECTS ON DAVID'S LIFE AND THE MOVIE.

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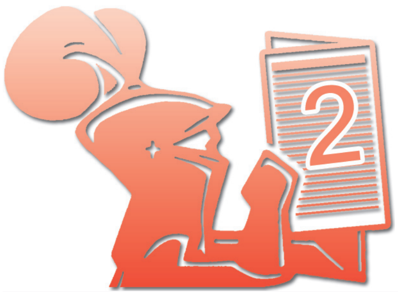

COVER SHOT

Senior Shan Tie, a member of the mentoring group Take Action, works with second grader Alaina Colbert at Boulevard Elementary School. Take Action spends an hour after school each week with second and third grade students in order to build relationships and encourage educational curiosity. The program will end after the state proficiency tests due to budget cuts, leaving 60 students without important connections and support. Photo by Dan Snider.

THE SHAKERITE
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OURTAKE, PAGE 2
THE FISCAL FACTS, PAGE 4

EDITORS' NOTE

Time to fix the funding

Cost of student desk: $98. Classroom set of textbooks: $2,500. Starting teacher salary: $39,000. A good education: priceless. Or, $5,169 if you're in the state of Ohio.

Though Shaker now spends $14,558 per pupil each year on its 5,681 students, the number will decrease as state budget cuts eat away at our funding. Starting this fiscal year, two sources of income will be phased out, leaving us short $4 million.

AVIVA ARIEL

Over the past 15 years, the court has tried to force Ohio's legislature to fix the school funding system after it was declared unconstitutional in 1991 in DeRolph v. Ohio. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court denied schools' appeals, rendering DeRolph moot. Effectively, the federal government has pushed our problems aside while continuing to enforce No Child Left Behind, holding schools to arbitrary standards and withholding crucial funding. The legislature has failed us, the court system has failed us, and initiating change is left to individual communities.

EMILY GRANNIS

The school plans to cut late buses from the elementary schools after the Proficiencies, and they will consolidate late buses at the middle school. As the buses are terminated, tutoring programs that target students who are underachieving must also end.

Peggy Caldwell, district director of communications, said the state's system doesn't make sense. "It's outrageous. The state's going in the wrong direction," she said, noting that she receives e-mails almost every day listing additional cuts that must be made. Caldwell compared Ohio's funding cuts to performing surgery with a meat cleaver.

We couldn't agree more. Several days before school started this year, the district was faced with the unexpected task of hiring and paying for a driver, bus and sign language interpreter for deaf students attending school in Columbus at $23,000 per year. Also, the school was notified that they would no longer receive reimbursement for transporting students who live within a mile of their school and face "risks" walking to school. District Business Administrator David Puffer is exasperated with the system. "Now it doesn't matter if you have to cross I-70 . . . they're not going to give us money to transport that child." Can't you picture cute little Susie Second-grader getting mowed down by the Rapid?

The government can and will continue to make cuts until we get the attention of our representatives - our power lies in our votes. Start with five minutes and 39 cents. Cut out, sign and mail the coupon below. They're beginning to leave us behind, but we can stop them.

Dear Representative Mason:
I believe Ohio must revise its system of funding education. It has been declared unconstitutional and is affecting our students' education in an irreparable way. I hope you will work to make the changes necessary for our students to be successful.
Sincerely,

Send to: 77 S. High St., 14th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Abortion access

Come rain, sleet or snow, anti-abortion protestors rally outside Shaker Medical Center and Preterm, two clinics on Shaker Boulevard, every Saturday morning. While you're sleeping, these men and women are fighting to overturn Roe v. Wade, the controversial court decision that guaranteed abortion access.

PAGE 11, THE CORE

PRESSING ONWARD

One Shakerite editor sits down with Jeremy Lassiter to discuss the senior's motivation, inspiration and most importantly his milestone of benching 405 lbs.

PAGE 22, RAIDER ZONE

COURTYARD CAFETERIA

Administrators mentioned and dismissed the possibility of utilizing the courtyard space as a dining area. The Editorial Board explores the options with a regular 'Rite Idea and our first-ever dissent.

PAGE 10, SHAKER SPEAKS

SHAKERITE
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2006 Editorial Board
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NSPA

Write to us!

Have an opinion? We'd love to hear.
Drop off at Rm. 231 or e-mail the editors
at shakerite@shaker.org

Shaker Heights
Teacher's Association
SHTA
Professionals
Dedicated to Educating
Shaker Youth

This Month

03.01.06

HAPPY PI DAY

In the mind of a blissfully ignorant person, the word "pie" conjures up images of pumpkin and pecan desserts and the sweet smell of fruit pies in the oven. To the average high school student however, pi is associated with complicated circumference and diameter formulas. On March 14 (3.14), Pi Day, these two ideas collide, as math students celebrate their knowledge of circles with circular treats such as cakes, cookies and pies.

SHAKER MAYOR SUPPORTS CAFFEINE AWARENESS IN MARCH

Coffee, soda and other caffeinated foods can serve as an energizer or pick-me-up, especially for the busy lives of high school students. However, March is Caffeine Awareness Month, a campaign created by the Caffeine Awareness Alliance, which aims to educate people on the negative consequences of caffeinated products. They explain that caffeine is actually an addictive drug, a milder stimulant of the same parts of the brain that cocaine and heroin affect. They claim that caffeine can lead to heart disease, pancreas and bladder cancer, hypoglycemia and central nervous system disorders. Judy Rawson, Mayor of Shaker Heights, recently signed a proclamation recognizing the month in Shaker. She is "calling upon all Shaker Heights citizens, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to increase awareness and understanding of the consequences of caffeine consumption."

WATCH THOSE REFILLS

by the #'s

The Caffeine Awareness Alliance hopes that by explaining the consequences of highly-caffeinated foods and drinks, people will consume them less frequently. Yet coffee, an highly caffeinated drink, remains a worldwide favorite.

150

milligrams of caffeine in an average cup of coffee.

2,000

hand-picked Arabica coffee cherries required to make one pound of coffee, equal to 4,000 beans.

57

percent of coffee is consumed at breakfast, 34 percent between meals and 13 percent at other meals.

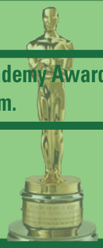
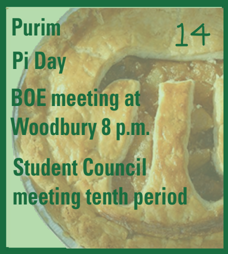
50

countries grow coffee. Coffee is the second largest export in the world after oil. More than 25 million people are employed in the coffee-business worldwide.

12

maximum micrograms of caffeine per milligram of urine allowed by the International Olympic Committee. This amount of caffeine can be achieved by drinking five cups of coffee.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Key IH - Ice Hockey WB - Women's Basketball BOE - Board of Education (Ice Hockey games listed H are at Thornton Park)			1 Ash Wednesday Peanut Butter Lovers Day IH Districts at Brooklyn thru 4/4 	2 La'Toya Hall turns 16	3 National Anthem Day Adam Maraschky turns 15	4
5 Academy Awards 8 p.m. 	6 Ohio Proficiency Test thru 4/11	7 AIME Math Exam Periods 1-8 Senior Project material Due Band Contest Preview 7 p.m.	8 Emily Axel turns 17	9	10 Meredith Schoenberger turns 17	11 A Night for the Red and White 7 p.m. IH States in Columbus thru 4/12
12 Employee Day	13 OGT Testing thru 4/17 Delayed Start thru 4/17 Sarah Ledford turns 18	14 Purim Pi Day BOE meeting at Woodbury 8 p.m. Student Council meeting tenth period 	15	16 WB States thru 4/18 Cleveland International Film Festival at Tower City Cinemas thru 4/26	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Awkward Moments Day
19 Ben Karlin turns 17	20 World Frog Day Coldplay at Quicken Loans Arena 7:30 p.m. $36-$70 	21 Chris Smith turns 17	22 World Day for Water 	23 First Nighter Preview 9th Grade Theater Experience 7 p.m.	24 9th Grade Theater Experience thru 4/25 8 p.m.	25
26	27 Ben Heide turns 16	28 Early Dismissal Naomi Garner turns 16	29 Orchestra/Choir Festival Concert 7:30 p.m. YEH student vs. teacher basketball game	30 Doctor's Day	31 Report cards mailed	March is Harvest for Hunger. Bring in your cans!

BEHIND THE OSCAR STATUE

The 78th Annual Academy Awards will present awards in 42 areas of achievement and the winners of these awards will take home a shiny Oscar. The statue depicts a knight holding a sword and standing on a reel of film. The story goes that the figurine acquired its name after an Academy librarian remarked that it reminded her of her uncle Oscar. The name caught on, however, and the Academy fully recognized it in 1939. There are 50-60 Oscars manufactured each year in Chicago by the manufacturer R. S. Owens. It takes 12 people and 20 hours to build one statue, but if it does not meet the strict quality control standards it is discarded. An R.S. Owens spokesperson said, "It may sound silly, but each one is done to perfection and handled with white gloves. After all, look at the people who will be clutching it on Oscar Night."

THE WORLD IN CLEVELAND'S THEATERS

The 30th annual Cleveland International Film Festival will be held at Tower City from March 16-26. The festival shows 120 contemporary films from 40 countries around the world. Colleen Corrigan, media and marketing manager for the Cleveland Film Society, said the social interests, cultural themes and comedic aspects present within this year's films are bound to entertain young adults. The approximately 43,000 attendees can vote for their favorite film to receive a prestigious audience choice award. The films are shown from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each weekday, with showings lasting until midnight on each of the event's two Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets should be bought in advance and can be purchased online at www.clevelandfilm.org. They cost $8 for students.

CELEBRATE YOUR AWKWARDNESS

Life is full of uncomfortable, embarrassing and inconvenient situations. Those awkward moments when you open the bathroom stall door to find someone else on the toilet or when you answer to someone who was not talking to you. Just the thought of these situations is enough to make many people cringe. However to the authors of "Awkward Moments: In Every Day Life," situations like these should be embraced for their power to give a reality check and humble the arrogant. They therefore established Awkward Moments Day to celebrate the humor in life's uncomfortable situations. In celebration of the day, revel in the awkwardness of the moment, rather than wish you could crawl away and hide.

Compiled by Allison Scharfstein

THIRD SCHOOL BLOOD DRIVE DRAWS SHAKER STUDENTS

While many students made their way down to the senior lounge Feb. 2 to participate in the school's third Red Cross blood drive of the year, volunteer Emily George said the earlier event was superior. "The last [blood drive] that Shaker held was more successful than this one because Pizzazz and Papa Johns were the only two sponsors this time around," she said. In response to a Shakerite inquiry, a Red Cross employee replied that statistics regarding blood drives are not available to the public.

NEW STAIR POLICY NOW SET IN PAINT

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

THOUGH THE RECENTLY painted signs are intended to help reinforce the new up and down stair policy, they are at times disregarded by both the student body and school officials.

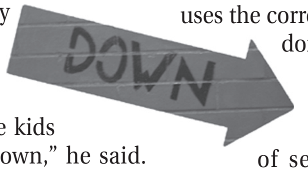
BY AVIVA ARIEL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Next time you're pushing up the "down staircase" through the throng of students descending to the first floor, you might notice the red markings on the wall are not just for Shaker spirit.

When the administration instated a one-directional policy for stairways in the main hallway, they typed up printed pages stating "up stairway" or "down stairway" to remind students of the appropriate path.

The paper signs were repeatedly defaced or torn until red arrows painted on the walls permanently replaced them.

Custodian Tim Bates made the arrows over the Jan. 14-15 weekend. "The kids kept tearing the pages down," he said. Since the painted signs were created, Bates has already repainted the arrows twice to cover up graffiti.



"[The painted signs are] just helpful as a reminder," Assistant Principal Neil Glazer said. "We are maintaining this flow so that it is geared to the best interest of everybody in the school."

Glazer believes students have realized their responsibility to obey the rules and that most follow stairway directions.

Sophie Beal, a freshman, thought the stairway policy was "a little ridiculous at the beginning," but has found that student cooperation has made moving through the halls easier.

"For the most part in between classes . . . people are just going in the right direction," Beal said. "But, yeah, you see people [go the wrong way] sometimes."

Sophomore Alicia Watts, however, sees other students using the wrong staircases every day.

"I mean if [students'] classes are close to the down stairs [but located a floor above,] they'll try to go up," said Watts, who said she always follows the rules during the allotted four minutes between classes. "They don't follow as much as they should, but I don't blame them."

For senior John Pavlik, the arrows are not more effective than the paper signs.

"When I actually look at them, I see all the arrows it's like, 'All right, good for everyone else,' " said Pavlik, who said he uses the correct stairways but only when doing so is "convenient."

"It's not like I'm going to pay attention," he added.

Pavlik noted that a lack of security guards might add to students' stairway indiscretions. Although security guards were stationed at the stairs when the policy was initially established, no one is specifically positioned to enforce the rules during all passing periods.

Vic Ferrell, director of security, said he tries to position guards near the stairs but sometimes it is impossible.

"They are [assigned to be there], but sometimes there may be some problems," Ferrell said. "But the way it's going, the actual traffic enforces it."

Pavlik said consistency is an issue.

"Sometimes there is [a security guard] and sometimes there's not," he said. "Half of the time they'll tell me to go the other way, but I get my head down in the crowd and I just dodge them. It works almost every time."

BRIEFS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- At its meeting Feb. 14, the Board of Education focused on a new wellness initiative being directed by the district health council. This 19-member group, made up of district employees and Shaker residents, is putting together a plan to comply with the renewed Women, Infants and Children Act. Assistant to the Superintendent, Christine Auginas and fellow presenters Punam Vachuspati (a Shaker parent and professor at The Ohio State University) and high school Assistant Principal Lisa Howell discussed the problem of childhood obesity in America, citing studies that found that 25 percent of 5-10 year olds have high cholesterol, high blood pressure and chances of heart disease.

- Also on the Board's agenda was a discussion of state and federal policies. In a blunt statement, Superintendent Mark Freeman summarized the month of March as "dominated" by mandated testing. "We now have an over-tested student population," Freeman said. "We can't control this, and certainly some of the tests are of questionable quality." Board members also approved placing a 9.9 mill operating levy on the May ballot.

- In his report to the Board, Treasurer Bryan Christman continued the monthly list of programs losing state funding. Freeman described the state's method of operation as deceitful. "The state sets aside a certain amount of money . . . but then by the time it's time to settle and send the money, they say, 'Well, gee, we don't have enough money allocated there,' " Freeman said. Christman also reported on pending legislation. House Bill 438 would create a council to examine the elimination of the Cost of Doing Business factor (key school funding the state recently cut); HB 473 is a proposed teacher merit pay program. Board President Freda Levenson reported meeting with Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones in an effort to make the federal government pay the 40 percent it promised to support mandated changes in special education. Currently, the government pays 9.7 percent.

Compiled by Emily Grannis

Swimming community dives into pool discussions

BY SCOTT UNDERWOOD
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

A mere 50 meters are not usually enough to cause a stir, but they were more than enough to draw much of the high school swim team, as well as about 125 other members of the Shaker swimming community, to the Jan. 23 City Council meeting to ensure Thornton Park renovation plans included an Olympic-sized lap pool.

While no concrete plans regarding the pool's renovation were available prior to the meeting, some Shaker citizens were concerned about what they believed were vague answers to their inquiries about whether a 50-meter pool would be included.

> "We hear you loud and clear -- we must have lap lanes."
>
> Judy Rawson • Shaker mayor

The pool at Thornton Park was built in 1962, and Shaker Director of Recreation Pam Quinn said the renovations are needed because over time the quality of the pool facilities has declined. At a Feb. 15 public forum regarding the renovations, three designs were presented, each of which included maintaining 50-meter lanes.

At the forum, the city announced estimates between $1.5 million and $3.3 million for renovating the pool area and another $4.5 million to add additional facilities to Thornton Park. The city has a $3 million budget for all recreation projects.

Members of Shaker Citizens for Swimming, an organization created to lobby for preservation of the Olympic-sized pool, spoke for 20 minutes at the Jan. 23 meeting. Cindy Shannon, SCFS member and member of Shaker Master Swim Program, felt there was a strong turnout.

"There is no way they can get rid of the Olympic-sized pool," she said. "There has been a groundswell of support from all aspects of the Shaker community."

Ernie Welsch, founder of Shaker Sharks and a 26-year physical education teacher, also spoke for the retention of the lap pool.

"High school swimmers need a 50-meter pool in order to be recognized by college coaches, " Welsh informed council members.

According to swim team member Mollie Silver, the pool is essential for team preparation.

"If they got rid of the long-course, Olympic-sized pool it would force the swim team to practice elsewhere, possibly indoors all year round," the senior said.

Swim team member Cesare Zannoni, a junior, estimated that roughly 30 members of the high school swim team were present at the meeting to ensure the city maintains the Thornton Park pool.

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

THE 40-YEAR-old Thornton Park pool's 50-meter lap lanes have been a point of contention during discussions about pool renovation plans.

"Our coach suggested that the team go because training is a big part of the season," Zannoni said.

In response to the swimmers' sentiments, Major Judy Rawson expressed delight at their passion.

"We hear you loud and clear," Rawson said. "We must have lap lanes."

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY STUDENTS get ready to go home Feb. 7 after one of the last Take Action mentoring sessions. The sessions will end at the beginning of March after proficiency testing is finished.

CUTS IN STATE SCHOOL FUNDING MEAN KIDS CAN'T TAKE ACTION

BY CARRIE REESE
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

It's getting harder and harder to Take Action in the wake of a $4.5 million budget cut.

"A lot of the students need the buses to get home," said junior Lauren Weinberger, who is a board member of Take Action, a club whose members visit Shaker elementary schools to help tutor and mentor the younger students.

The buses Weinberger mentioned will no longer be available to transport the younger students after Take Action activities, making it impossible for this club to continue as the district tightens its budget to compensate for a drop in state funding.

"I was very surprised [when I heard about the end of late buses]," Weinberger said. "At the time it was like a rumor. I didn't know for sure, but when I heard it from a principal, I was disappointed it would shut down the club."

According to Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell and Business Administrator David Puffer, after the Ohio Proficiency Tests in March, all late buses will be cut from Shaker elementary schools. The middle school will also cut down on bus usage by either consolidating routes or offering only one shift of late buses instead of two. Currently, middle school students can go home on 4 p.m. conference buses or 5:30 p.m. sports buses.

Many elementary school students have no way of getting home because working parents can't pick them up. Cutting elementary school late buses will indirectly affect the 30 high school members as well as the 60 elementary students who benefited from Take Action tutoring.

"We help with homework and talk to [the kids] about what's going on in their lives," said junior Jenny Kutik, another Take Action board member who works with Fernway Elementary School students. "We're supposed to be an older kid that they can look up to." In response to the end of transportation, Take Action leaders have considered meeting on Saturdays next year.

The budget cut comes in response to Ohio House Bills No. 920 and 66. In House Bill No. 920, a bill from the'70s, the school tax was prevented from rising with the rate of inflation. As the value of homes rises, schools cannot collect additional taxes in keeping with such increases. Instead, schools collect taxes based on the value of homes when a levy passes while inflation causes the district's costs to rise.

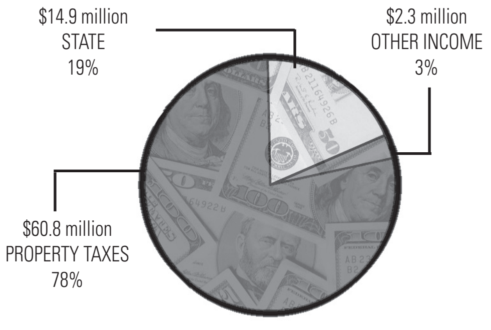
In House Bill No. 66, the tangible personal property tax was eliminated. Previously, the tangible personal property tax meant a car dealership paid tax on every car sitting in its lot; now, those tax revenues no longer exist. According to the December 2005 Finance & Audit Committee Report, House Bill No. 66 means an additional $2 million per year drop in revenue. The Finance and Audit report states that Shaker spends $14,556 per student each year, compared to the Ohio minimum of $6,000.

In a Jan. 23 letter sent to district employees, Superintendent Mark Freeman wrote, "We need to reduce our expenditures by about $4.5 million for the 2006-07 school year," and added, "We will do everything possible to minimize the impact on direct services to children, and we will do everything possible to avoid layoffs."

Nevertheless, the district has to make program changes in order to save money, and eliminating late bus service is one of many steps toward that goal.

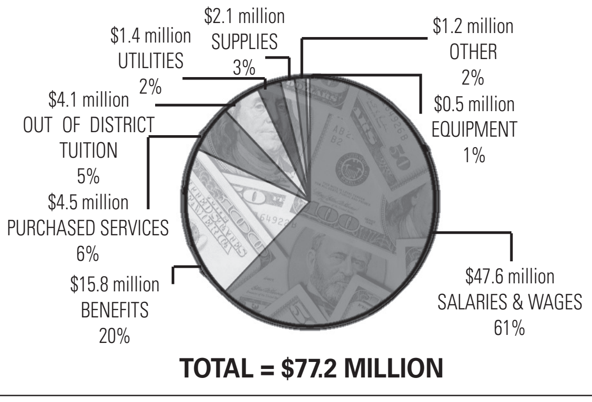
"There's nothing we can do," Kutik said. "I'm sad that they have to stop such a great program."

GENERAL FUND INCOME 2004-05



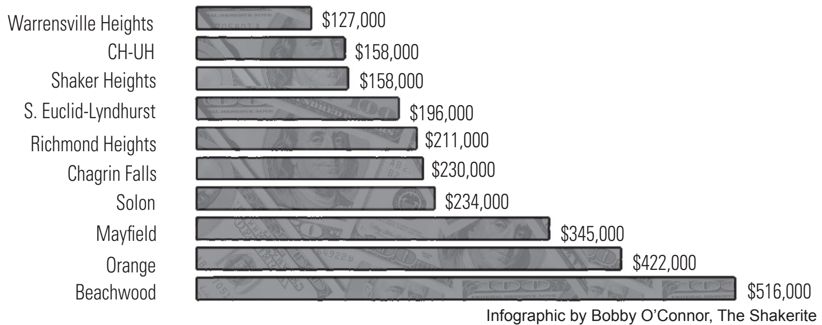
TOTAL = $78.0 MILLION

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES 2004-05



TOTAL = $77.2 MILLION

TAXABLE VALUE PER PUPIL 2003



Infographic by Bobby O'Connor, The Shakerite
Information from Ohio Department of Taxation

YOUR GRADUATION CLOCK TICKS FASTER THESE DAYS

• 4-year time limit will cause rates, AYP to drop nationwide

BY EMILY GRANNIS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The federal government wants high school students to abandon the five-year plan.

Shaker currently boasts a 98.8 percent graduation rate, calculated by counting the number of students who enter the school as freshmen and comparing that to the number of graduates four years later. The state of Ohio designates several reasons students can leave a school without their departure impacting the graduation rate, including changing schools, health reasons and moving out of the country.

Under current Ohio standards, as long as a student graduates, he raises his school's graduation rate, even if he takes more than four years to finish high school. But beginning this year, students who don't graduate in four years will cause the graduation rate to drop because of a provision of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Graduation rate is one of many factors the government uses to rate the effectiveness of schools in a measure called Adequate Yearly Progress. Federal funding for public schools now depends partly on a given school's AYP.

"Everybody's graduation rate will go down now," said Dale Whittington, district director of testing and research evaluation.

Principal Michael Griffith said he hopes all students can graduate in four years because repeating a grade is not beneficial to them, not because administrators are worried about the graduation rate. He said it is an issue of confidence.

"It's that first shot when [they] don't make it," Griffith explained. "[They] start questioning if [they] can't do this . . . [They] begin to give up."

Griffith said the administration has tried to send the message that graduating is more important than how long it takes to graduate. Guidance Department Chairwoman Eileen Blattner said counselors do not feel pressure to keep the graduation rate high. "No more pressure than comes from within to make sure each of our kids graduates," she said. Counselors say they encourage students who only need one or two credits to finish during summer school.

Blake Thompson is one senior who took advantage of summer school. He took government over the summer, and aims to finish his other credits this semester. He attributes his failure to graduate last year to tough classes and poor attendance last year.

"My first semester of last year I took Literature and the Arts with Mr. [George] Harley. It was the most amazing class I've ever taken, but it was really challenging," Thompson said. In terms of P.E., "In the morning, I ironed my shirt and put on a tie and then I didn't want to go. I didn't want to change [into P.E. clothes]."

In an effort to help students graduate in four years, the high school piloted a program this year called Fast Track. Academic Adviser Mary Lynne McGovern, who coordinates the program, said it is for repeating freshman who didn't earn five credits.

"[They're] highly capable of doing excellent school work," she said. The 12 students and four teachers involved are hoping the students can enter as juniors in the fall of 2006. "I think it's really successful," McGovern said. "It's given them a second chance."

Thompson expressed appreciation for how helpful teachers and staff have been. "Mr. Harley just came up to me today and was like, 'What classes are you taking?' And I said, 'Poetry writing and P.E.' And he said, 'Well, if you ever need help with poetry writing, let me know,' " Thompson said. "Mr. Griffith is a friend of mine, so he checks up on me and Mr. Hutch [does], too."

Griffith said he wants to see students graduate because he knows how important a high school degree is.

"Whether it takes me five years to get you there, I want you to graduate from high school because I know how important that is to your success," he said.

Kevin Reeves • Shaker Heights City School District

PRINCIPAL MICHAEL GRIFFITH congratulates the class of 2005 at commencement June 6. A new federal law prohibits schools from counting students who fail to graduate in four years in their graduation rate.

by the #'s GRADUATION RATES THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND NATION

72.3	percent of Ohio students graduate within four years.
67	percent of students in the country graduate within four years, however there has been a steep decline in recent years.
87	percent of students graduated in four years in New Jersey, making it the highest overall graduation rate in the nation.
55	percent of Florida students graduated last year, making it the lowest overall graduation rate in the nation.
74	percent of African-American students graduated in West Virginia, making it the state with the highest African-American graduation rate.
15	percent of the national Ohio graduation rate has risen since 1990.

Compiled by Carrie Reese from the United Health Foundation and The Manhattan Institute

NEWS IN THE NATION

1. FEB. 2, 2006 - DES MOINES, IA

Tim Carr, a junior at Lamoni High School, urged Iowa lawmakers to support legislation aimed at **curbing underage drinking**. The 16 year old is a member of Iowans to Reduce Underage Drinking, an organization that believes keg registration will reduce problems related to underage drinking, such as auto accidents, assaults, date rapes, sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies. "I tried to give the youth perspective and represent youth's voice," Carr said.

Compiled by Scott Underwood from www.thedailynonpareil.com

2. FEB. 10, 2006 – GLEN ELLYN, ILL

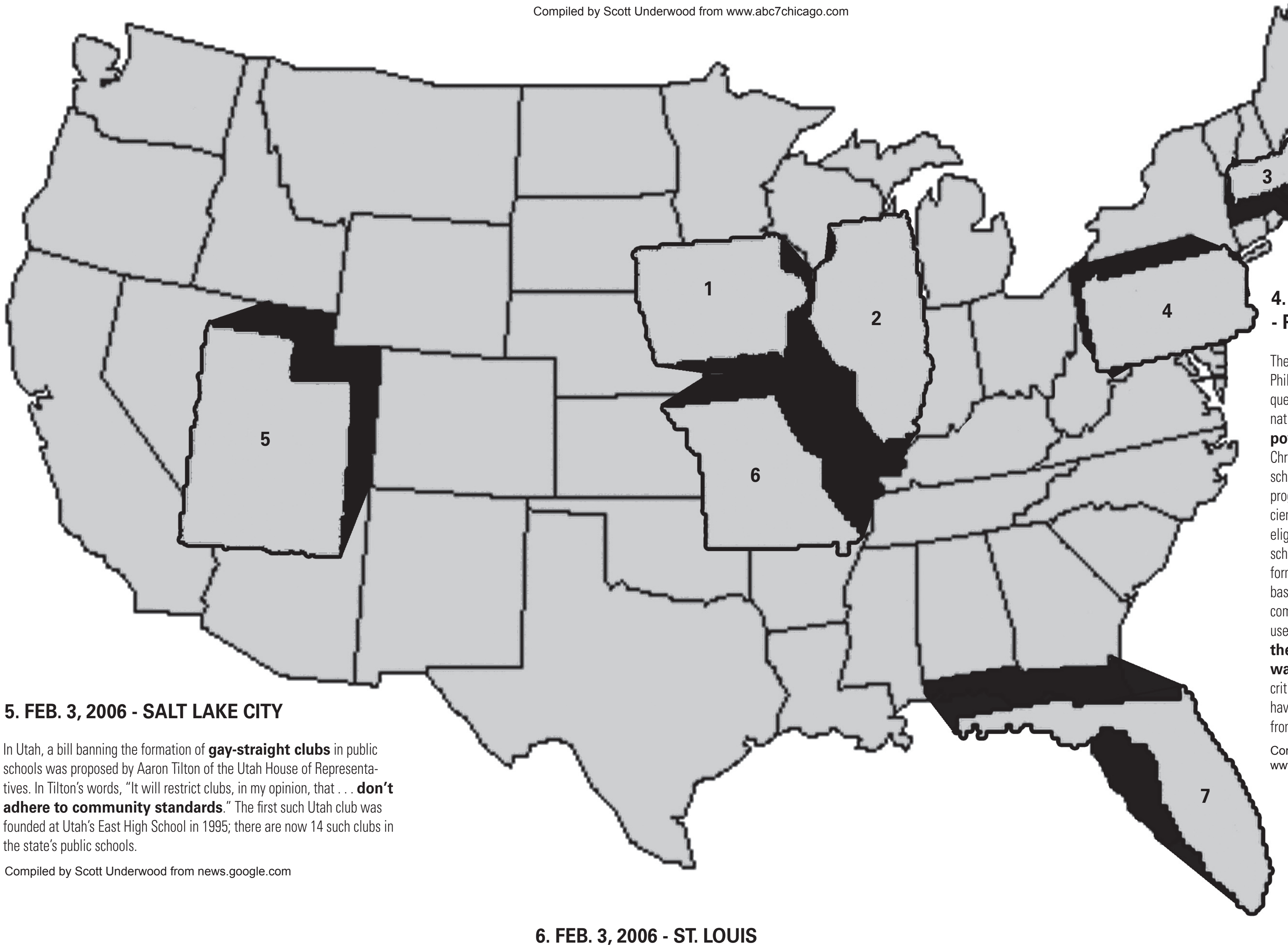
A production at Glenbard West High School was canceled by the school after the actors **conducted a play rehearsal in their underwear**. The action was taken after nine theater students decided to rehearse in their underwear, claiming it would help them with stage fright. When the school became aware of this, they canceled the play, an edgy production about homosexuality titled **"Raised in Captivity."** One student, actress Cherice Cosentino, said, "None of us are mad at getting suspended, detentions, anything else. We just feel it was very wrong to cancel our show we've been working very hard on." Despite parental opposition to the decision, Glenbard West High School's principal has said the matter is non-negotiable.

Compiled by Scott Underwood from www.abc7chicago.com

3. JAN. 11, 2006 - BOSTON

Police from Stoughton, a suburb of Boston, used the popular site **www.myspace.com** to track three teenagers whom they suspected of vandalism. The teenagers' names were not on the site, but police were able to track them through a group called "Graffiti Artists." They now face charges of tagging property and malicious damage.

Compiled by Carrie Reese from www.cbs4boston.com



4. FEB. 12, 2006 - PHILADELPHIA

The Lutheran Christian Academy in Philadelphia faces scrutiny for their questionable curriculum. One of the nation's high school **basketball powerhouses**, the Lutheran Christian Academy is one of many prep schools with questionable academic programs that help players with deficient academic performances become eligible to play Division I sports. The school's only full-time employee, a former sanitation worker, is also the basketball coach, and a former student commented that, "[the school] did not use traditional textbooks **and that the coach, Darryl Schofield, was the only teacher**." Despite criticism, Schofield said his players have an 80 percent graduation rate from college.

Compiled by Scott Underwood from www.washingtonpost.com

5. FEB. 3, 2006 - SALT LAKE CITY

In Utah, a bill banning the formation of **gay-straight clubs** in public schools was proposed by Aaron Tilton of the Utah House of Representatives. In Tilton's words, "It will restrict clubs, in my opinion, that . . . **don't adhere to community standards**." The first such Utah club was founded at Utah's East High School in 1995; there are now 14 such clubs in the state's public schools.

Compiled by Scott Underwood from news.google.com

6. FEB. 3, 2006 - ST. LOUIS

Next year, students who attend Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis may be subject to **a mandatory drug test**. This $60 test would be included in the school's $9,500 tuition. Civil libertarians oppose this plan, but President George W. Bush voiced support of student drug testing in his 2004 State of the Union address. While the school has not decided whether to put the program in motion, officials have asked parents to respond to a survey about mandatory drug testing. If implemented, roughly **15 students a day** would be randomly selected for testing at the start of an academic year until the entire student body has been checked, and random tests would continue during the year. In the opinion of Christian Brothers College High School student, junior Tommy Daher, "I think it's great that we'll be leading the way in this."

Compiled by Scott Underwood from www.usnews.com

7. APRIL 12, 2005 - SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLA

As prom season approaches, teens take precautions to prevent drunk driving accidents. Unfortunately for a group of Florida teens last year, their safety precaution took an unsafe turn. Nine teens hired a limo driver to prevent reckless driving on prom night, a night known for numerous drunk driving accidents. The limo driver, Christina Tomacelli, **was charged with a DUI** and refused to submit a blood-alcohol test. A half-empty bottle of Smirnoff Citrus Twist was found next to the driver's seat. "I had taken some medications and I did not eat," Tomacelli told a news station. Tomacelli has a record of **three DUI charges in the past 15 years** in addition to multiple citations for unsafe driving. The students called the police and used another vehicle brought by their parents to get to prom.

Compiled by Carrie Reese from http://www.wftv.com

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

AUG 11, 2005 - NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

Two teenagers performed a **caesarean section on a dead cat** found at the side of a road. Monica Castonguay and Kim Quimpere, 15 and 13 years old, didn't know anything about biology or performing surgery, but after discovering that the cat's body was warm, they got ready to try and save the pregnant cat's kittens. After pulling the kittens out of an incision they made in the mother's abdomen, the teens were able to **save two of the four kittens**. A stray cat in the neighborhood adopted the kittens and nourished them. Neither of the teens was inspired to be a doctor or veterinarian, and Quimpere told a local newspaper that she found the event rather nauseating.

Compiled by Carrie Reese from www.cbc.ca

Infographic by Allie Jennings • The Shakerite

TO STATE OR NOT TO STATE

President Bush's Jan. 31 State of the Union address exemplified our leaders' lack of rhetorical relevance. The State of the Union should not be a validation for the president, his party or its political agenda. The speech should simply tell us the, well, state of the union. Instead of using this opportunity to encourage us to move forward in the upcoming year, recent presidents have turned the State of the Union into a presidential clap-a-thon. No matter how good you thought Bush's speech was, did we need 64 applause breaks?

Cell phone love rings true

Lena Newman

I'll admit it. I'm in love.

We met Christmas morning in 2003 and it was love at first sight.

I never thought a cell phone could bring me so much happiness, but my delight could not even be eclipsed by the lack of cell phone service at the house we were staying in. The blue keys, the hot pink cover adorned with lightning bugs that glowed as the phone rang . . . what wasn't to love?

They say the first few months in a relationship are the most exciting, but then things quiet down. This was not true of my cell phone and me.

Even after most of my other Christmas gifts had found a place at the back of my closet, my phone remained at hand. I even knit a special case for it so it wouldn't get scratched in my backpack.

But then, we hit a rough patch. In a world where the pace of technology is relentless, my phone quickly became outdated.

At first, it didn't bother me, but my friends were ruthless. They called it the Brick, the Barbie Phone and the Free Phone.

All of the taunting got to me, and I started using my cell phone sparingly. I cast covetous glances at the thin, silver flip phones of my peers and was captivated by commercials for the MOTO Razr. Then, one day in December, my relationship with my cell phone came to an abrupt end.

It was gone.

My mom called my phone, and to my astonishment, someone answered. The guy identified himself as "Touché," and my mom explained that the cell phone he was using belonged to me.

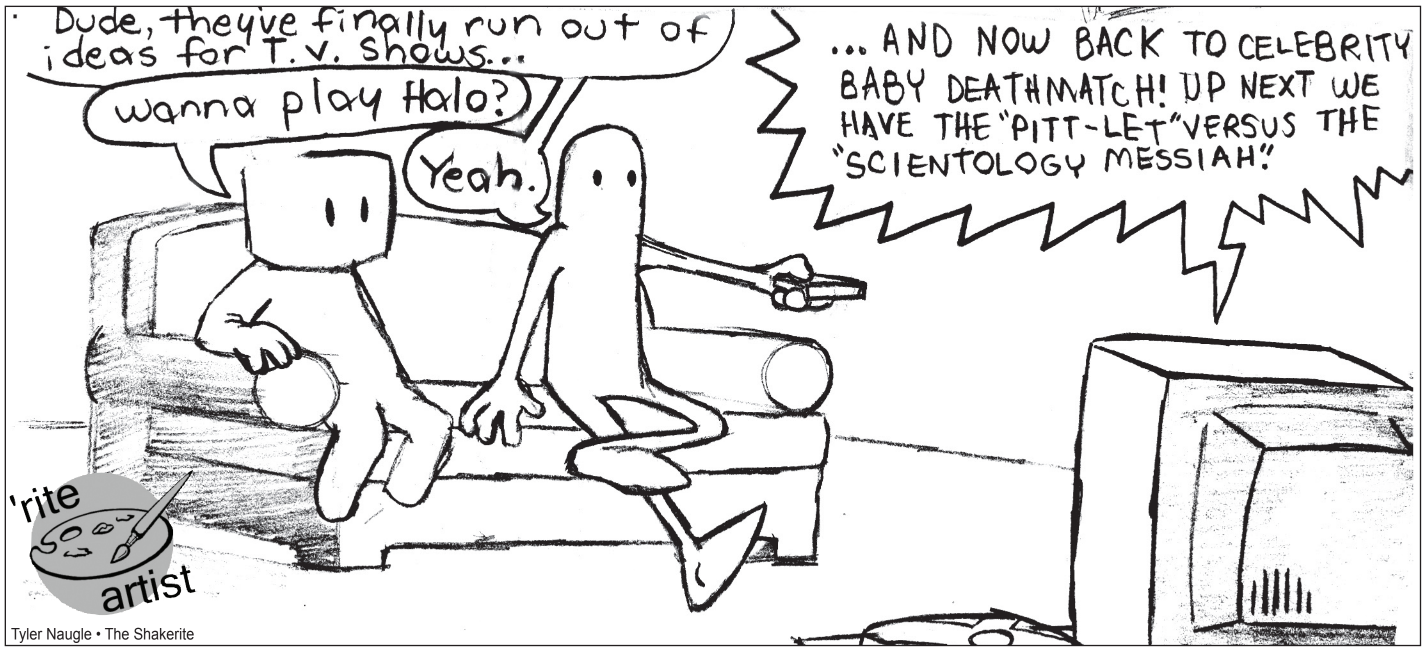
Touché claimed he found my phone on the ground, and my mom asked for his address so we could pick it up. He refused, and he refused to leave it in the main office at school for me to retrieve. Then he hung up.

I was horrified. I could not believe that someone had actually stolen my phone. I had recently been campaigning for a new cell phone, but now I felt like I had cheated on my old phone, as if my wanting a new phone had willed my old one to be stolen.

As my parents called the phone company to disconnect my phone, it hit me. Never before had I realized the attachment I had developed to a piece of technology. Despite the generic nature of my phone (it was free if you signed up for a certain plan), it was personalized in ways Touché could never appreciate. The text messages I had sent, the scratch on the back cover from dropping it -- all of these things made my phone special to me.

My parents replaced my phone that same night. It turns out they had bought me a new phone for Christmas. My new phone is a thin, silver flip phone, exactly like I wanted. It can take pictures and download real ring tones, but somehow, it just isn't the same.

You never really get over your first love, even if it was a cell phone.


Dude, theyve finally run out of ideas for T.V. shows...
wanna play Halo?
Yeah.
... AND NOW BACK TO CELEBRITY BABY DEATHMATCH! UP NEXT WE HAVE THE "PITT-LET" VERSUS THE "SCIENTOLOGY MESSIAH!"
'rite artist

Tyler Naugle • The Shakerite

ALCOHOL EDUCATION MISSES MARK

According to alcoholstats.com, deaths resulting from teens driving drunk have decreased 64 percent since 1982, and there were 2,600 fewer deaths in 2004 than 22 years ago. However, there were still 1,536 deaths in 2004. That's 1,536 too many. In Shaker's health classes, students participate in a field sobriety test simulation with local police officers. The class-long session includes weaving between cones on a scooter while wearing goggles that simulate various impairment levels to mimic the experience of driving drunk. Students also attempt to pour a glass of water, walk a straight line and catch or throw a ball while wearing the goggles. In addition to these simulations, students watch Lifetime movies and receive alcohol education at driver's education classes.

We appreciate that the adults of the community are putting forth great effort to educate us about the harmful effects of drinking and driving, but their methods are outdated and could be more effective at changing teens' attitudes. At other local high schools, the drinking and driving education is a little more gripping. Students at Solon witness a mock accident involving their peers. Jim Paradise, adviser of Students Against Drunk Driving at Solon, explained that the accident, which is staged in the football stadium, involves two cars with four students each. The audience is told that the students in one of the cars have been drinking. Ambulances, police officers and helicopters come to transport "injured" students, identify the "dead" and arrest the "driver." The hour-long demonstration, which costs at least $1,000, is performed every two years for the junior and senior classes just before prom, and Paradise said students often cry and give the school "very positive feedback."

This is an effective way to expose students to the realities of drinking and driving. Seeing actors die in an accident in a Lifetime movie is impersonal and doesn't send a message to students. When students see their classmates being carried away on stretchers, the message carries more weight.

Health teacher Hubert McIntyre, who has been teaching at Shaker for 29 years, said the school briefly considered putting a totaled car on the front lawn as some other schools do but that the idea was not "aggressively pursued." He added that the current demonstrations in Shaker's health classes are effective because students can interact with teachers and police officers. Nevertheless, he admits that the sight of a simulated accident is powerful.

"I'd been the first person to say that visuals will enhance any lesson," McIntyre said. "There are many different means of trying to put out the message that it can happen to you."

Shaker – a school that cannot sustain a group called Students Against Destructive Decisions because student members don't want to interfere with their peers' social lives -- should consider a more striking demonstration of students drinking and driving before the accident its students witness is all too real.

Source's perception of minority families was wrong

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Beryl Dade ('50) wrote in response to "Interview with Shaker graduate gives glimpse into '40s high school life," in which Phyllis Probeck ('49) said, "When I went to Shaker, there were only two black girls. Their parents were entertainers downtown. They didn't mingle with the other students; they only talked to each other."

Dade originally sent her letter at the end of last school year, but resent it after it did not appear in the next edition of The Shakerite because of an editor's error.

"My high school years were most enjoyable," Dade said in a phone interview, adding her life has been "an educational experience for me, and it still is."

After graduating from Shaker, Dade attended Ohio University and taught in Ohio and New Jersey for 37 years. Now, she directs an after-school program and does remediation at a middle school in North Carolina.

To the Editor:

In the April 29, 2005, Vol. 75, Issue 8 of The Shakerite, the interview with Ms. Phyllis Probeck was interesting. The view of high school life in the 40s shows similarity in the past and present.

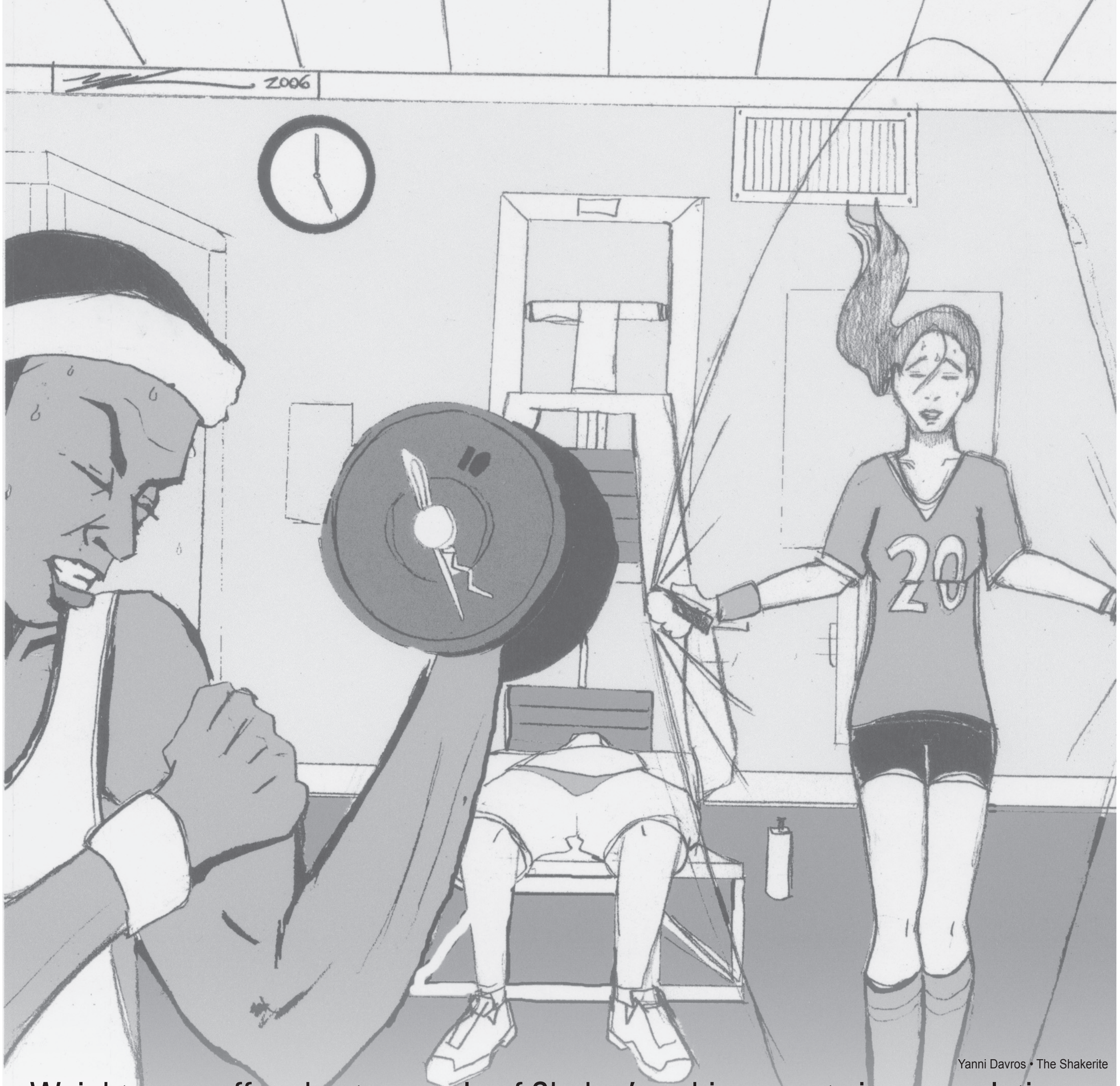
Ms. Probeck felt the "two black girls" did not mingle with other students. Since they participated in many activities there had to be some mingling. Some of the activities they were involved in were: French Club, P.A., Y-Teens, Honor Study Hall, A Cappella Choir, Council on World Affairs, volleyball, baseball, basketball, field hockey and Gym Leaders.

The perceptions of the families were a little mixed. One father was a dentist and the mother was a social worker. The other father was an electrical contractor and the mother was a teacher.

This information is a matter of record and can be checked.

Beryl Hannon Dade

THE WEIGHTY ISSUE OF RACE



Yanni Davros • The Shakerite

• Weight room offers best example of Shaker's achievements in race relations

REID ALBANO

BRAEDEN KEPNER-KRAUS

Race has always been a hot topic at Shaker. From the self-segregation in the cafeteria to the ever-present specter of the achievement gap in the classroom, every possible situation in which racial segregation could play a part has been examined, prodded and interpreted by journalists, social scientists, teachers and parents. Despite the inordinate amount of time and attention devoted to diversity training and education, Shaker students continue to self-segregate in virtually every aspect of high school life.

So why haven't we been successful in creating a race-blind school environment that matches the generally progressive attitudes of Shaker residents? The simple answer is that diversity as a goal in and of itself is not sufficient. Although a noble objective, an integrated environment will only attract that small segment of students that is actively interested in discussing race relations if diversity is the overall goal of a program.

Ironically, the only unself-consciously integrated program in the Shaker schools we have ever encountered is one that has received little or no attention for its extraordinarily unique environment, despite the fact that it fosters diversity, inclusion and social bonds between members. Bigger, Faster, Stronger, or BFS, is an athletic conditioning program for Shaker athletes. BFS is offered both as a class and an after-school training program.

guest 'rite

The fraternal environment of BFS is attributable to the unique culture of the weight room created by the necessity of cooperation to avoid injury, the guidance of the coaches and the dedication of the lifters. The only way to reach maximum potential and strength is to work together.

Lifters place implicit trust in one another; on most lifts, a spotter is required to watch and help control the weight. A distracted or inexperienced spotter can cause serious injury or even death.

The coaches provide an extra element of discipline and make clear that anyone who is disrespectful or uncooperative has no place in the weight room. They also serve as role models to the upperclassmen who know them personally, and who in turn provide guidance to younger lifters. Lackadaisical behavior is not tolerated by coaches or fellow athletes; anyone who isn't willing to work hard quickly discovers that he is in the wrong place.

The strong bonds among lifters brought into being by shared dedication to a single cause – becoming bigger, faster and stronger – create a feeling of brotherhood regardless of race, sport, age or grade point average. And really, maybe that's the problem – we've spent too much time telling people that they need to integrate, while giving them no common cause to unite them. For some Shaker students, weight lifting provides just that, and if we want to truly integrate, we have to make integration a pleasant side-effect, not the end goal.

Fight racism of all kinds

WESLEY LOWERY

In a school district that prides itself on racial diversity, one would think that an environment of peace, love and racial equality would predominate. In this "tolerant" and "racially integrated" school, one would expect a genuine pursuit of interracial interaction, as well as classes that defeat all evidence of the ever-looming "achievement gap."

This racial utopia would offer an encompassing worldview as well as an opportunity for students of every race to befriend students of other races.

As you can see, Shaker, there is some work to be done.

Anyone who has spent time in the high school's hallways and classrooms has witnessed numerous declarations of Shaker's efforts in both diversity and race relations. However, it should be evident to everyone that Shaker isn't the racial paradise we claim it to be. Students are subject to a racially hostile environment where they. associate mainly with those of their own race and in many cases mock those who attempt to change for the better.

The district continues to neglect one of its biggest problems by hiding behind its poster children: the Student Group on Race Relations and the Minority Achievement Committees. While these organizations work to improve race relations and to bridge the achievement gap, they cannot comprise the schools' only attempts to nurture a truly integrated community. Until Shaker steps up and addresses its ongoing failure to foster admirable race relations, the high school will continue to be an example of a district that has opened its mouth wide only to place its foot inside.

One area in need of school leaders' attention is the repugnant double standard faced by those who try to combat racism. In its efforts to gain equality, Shaker has focused too much on racism against African-Americans, and far too little on intolerance aimed at other races. An African-American can call a Caucasian a variety of names without fear of punishment. Blacks can mock their light-skinned peers by calling them "cracker," "honkey," "whitey" and even "the man," while even the whisper of the word "nigger" by a white student would incite uncontrollable rage among Shaker's black (and white) communities.

Teachers need to throw aside their fear and resolve racial conflicts. Students need to be taught that racism isn't a cop-out excuse for all of life's problems. In addition, Shaker's curriculum needs to cease to allow African-American students to believe that all of life's hardships can be blamed on racism. This Shaker-made "black man's burden" allows African-American students to avoid constructively resolving their conflicts by simply crying "Racist!" instead.

In addition, teachers need to stand up for students who are being harassed in the hallways and locker rooms. Why should I be subject to a hostile environment while attempting to get dressed for gym?

There's no reason why students should feel comfortable screaming profanities and racial slurs in the presence of teachers, no matter what their race.

Until Shaker takes an unprecedented step and recognizes that not only whites can be racist, the community will never be able to cultivate an environment that is truly safe for people of all races.

Isn't it time that we addressed the real issues at hand, instead of covering our sub-par attempts at race relations with chants of "We've got SGORR"?

CAFETERIA PROPOSAL: PROS AND CONS

• Courtyard space to remain untouched

'rite idea

COLD DRINKS
Cold Drinks

Photo Illustration by Dan Snider • The Shakerite

COURTYARD PROVIDES ALTERNATIVE LUNCH SPACE

As much as we love eating in the noisy, crowded cafeteria, surrounded by the stench of day-old barbeque sauce and cleaning supplies, wouldn't it be nicer to eat somewhere else? Well, it's possible.

According to Business Administrator David Puffer, the district considered transforming the courtyard into an enclosed café-style dining area but scratched the idea because of the estimated $3 million price tag.

Instead, the administration is leaning toward simply redesigning the current cafeteria and expanding it.

The cafeteria would be more like a food court with expanded seating and more dining options. The dish room would become the bookstore. The possibility of relocating the senior and faculty lounges has also been discussed.

Enclosing the courtyard would cost an estimated $2 million, but can you put a price on quiet halls and pacified students? Although it is a significant amount of money, its long-term benefits could easily defray the cost.

The new cafeteria would start with a dome encompassing the courtyard so the area could be used in all weather. It would be set up the same way the district is proposing to remodel the existing cafeteria – like a food court. The food stations could be placed around the perimeter of the courtyard, surrounding the tables. The central location of the courtyard provides for easy student access as well as minimal noise disruption for surrounding classrooms. Also, the courtyard would provide an additional 4,000 square feet of eatting space.

Instead of expanding the current cafeteria, that space could be put to better use by creating more classrooms and quiet study areas. Some high schools have "common areas" where students can go to socialize, study and relax instead of roaming the halls.

This would decrease the need for hallway security because students would stay in central areas. Bathrooms could be included in the common area and the courtyard so students would not have to leave the spaces during class periods.

We hope the administration will take these suggestions into account when deciding on a plan for the cafeteria's future.

CURRENT CAFETERIA SPACE SHOULD BE RECYCLED

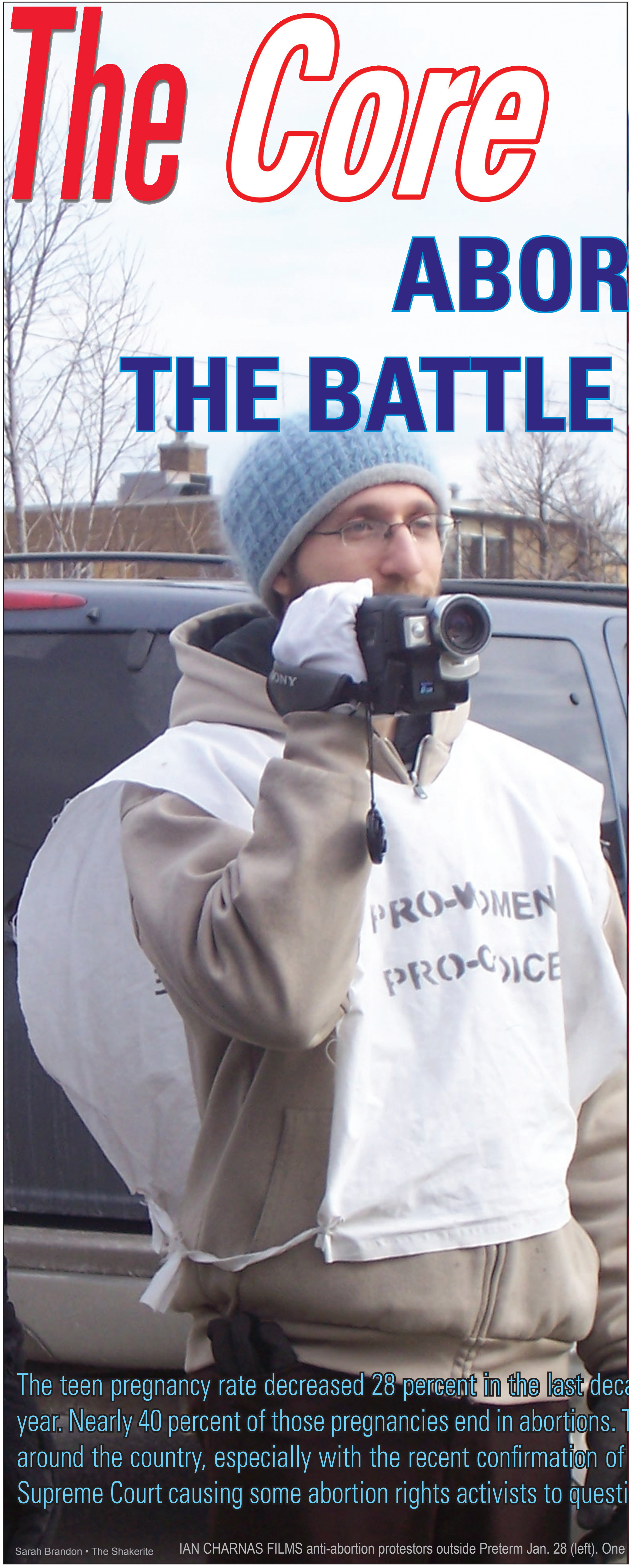
LAUREN WEISS
CORE EDITOR

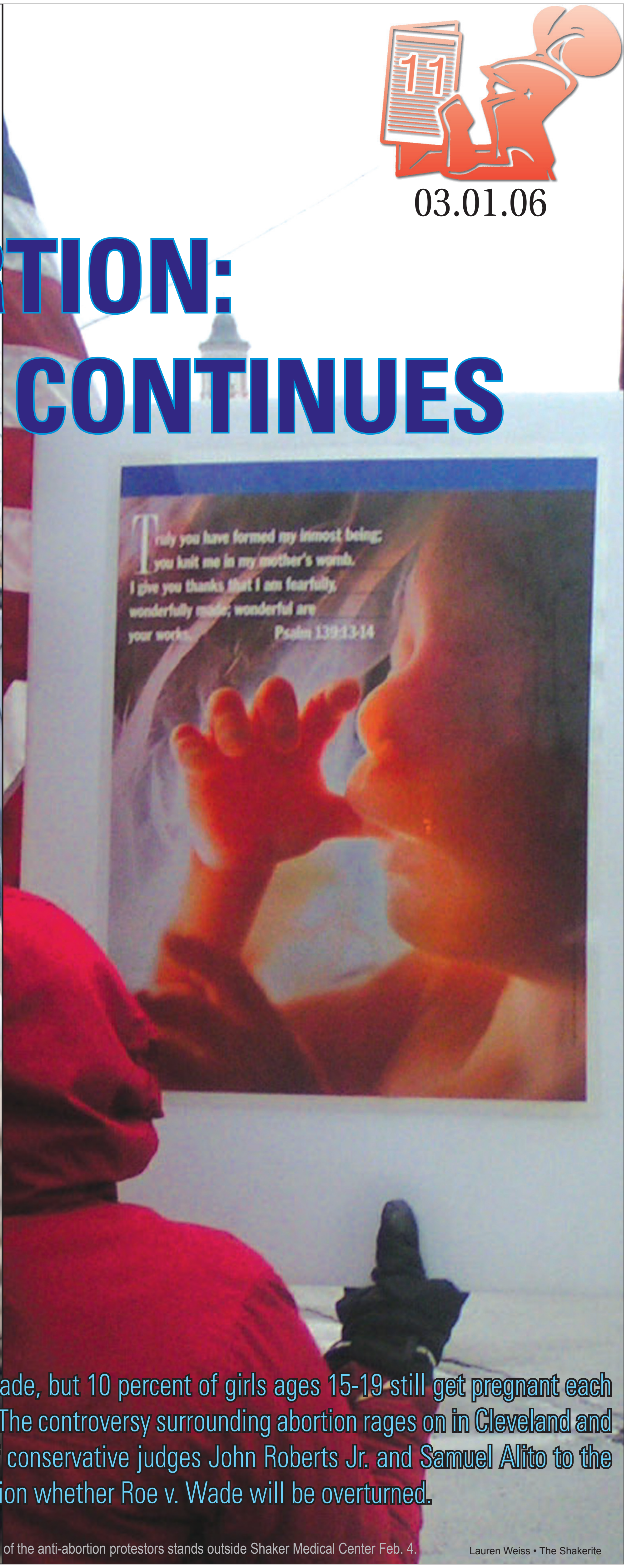
There is no question that the cafeteria is outdated and ineffective. Although the administration wants students out of the halls during lunch periods, there is not enough room in the cafeteria, egress and senior lounge for all the students who eat sixth period.

Business Administrator David Puffer said the school briefly considered converting the courtyard into an enclosed eating area with food stations so students have a pleasant, efficient place to eat. However, district officials estimated that project would cost $3 million and took that idea off of the table. Puffer could not provide an estimate for how much the district will spend on renovation of the existing cafeteria, if it is renovated, but he said the project would be paid for with already-approved bond money. While renovating the current cafeteria is a reasonable use of this money, the district demonstrated fiscal responsibility when it decided not to spend millions of extra dollars to create a cool but ultimately unnecessary domed-over courtyard. Money from that bond issue could more appropriately be used to finance new windows and cut district heating costs.

The courtyard is worth preserving as an open area in the middle of the school. In nice weather, students use the area for eating and enjoying the too-few days of sunshine Clevelanders get. In addition, art students use the space for painting and for hosting the annual Art Fair. Why should students lose the versatility of that space when there is already a cafeteria space available?

ABORTION: THE BATTLE CONTINUES


SONY
PRO-WOMEN
PRO-CHOICE


Truly you have formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.
I give you thanks that I am fearfully,
wonderfully made; wonderful are
your works.
Psalm 139:13-14

The teen pregnancy rate decreased 28 percent in the last decade, but 10 percent of girls ages 15-19 still get pregnant each year. Nearly 40 percent of those pregnancies end in abortions. The controversy surrounding abortion rages on in Cleveland and around the country, especially with the recent confirmation of conservative judges John Roberts Jr. and Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court causing some abortion rights activists to question whether Roe v. Wade will be overturned.

Sarah Brandon • The Shakerite

IAN CHARNAS FILMS anti-abortion protestors outside Preterm Jan. 28 (left). One of the anti-abortion protestors stands outside Shaker Medical Center Feb. 4.

Lauren Weiss • The Shakerite

CLEVELAND PLAYS HOST TO ABORTION PROTESTS

• Controversy extends to what schools teach in sex ed

BY SARAH BRANDON AND LAUREN WEISS
THE CORE EDITORS

Saturday mornings bring a passionate, diverse crowd to the sidewalks outside of Preterm and Shaker Medical Center, two clinics on Shaker Boulevard that perform abortions. There are two recent college graduates, "pro-choice" set in small, black letters on one's shirt, playing hacky sack and filming the anti-abortion protestors less than 30 feet away. That group carries huge posters of aborted fetuses, prays and tells women entering the clinics to rethink "killing their children.

"Osama bin Laden could only hope to kill that many Americans," said one anti-abortion activist, Cleveland Heights resident Mary*. "I compare it to Germans watching the trains go by [during the Holocaust]. Abortion doctors kill 30 to 40 babies a day – this is the bloodiest street in Ohio."

Mary protests with Silent No More, an organization that tries to "make the public aware that abortion is harmful emotionally, physically and spiritually to women and others," according to its website. She said she has never had an abortion and wants to convince women that the long-term consequences of abortion make carrying the pregnancy to term a necessity.

> Our goal is to help women.
>
> Tara Broderick
> CEO, Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland

"Abortion hurts women. I don't worry about the babies because the babies are with the Lord," said Mary, a Catholic who adopted three children.

As Mary spoke, another protestor screamed at an elderly woman carrying an abortion rights sign, "Hey, grandma, killed any more babies today?"

Filming the scene were the two college graduates, members of Cleveland Pro-Choice Video Team, an organization that documents the activities of anti-abortion protestors outside abortion clinics. Ian Charnas, 25, and Steve*, 23, have been filming activists for the past three years and say the activists have tried to grab women's ankles as they walked toward the clinic entrance.

"We don't want to anger [the protestors] because we're intimidated by them," Charnas said. "You should be able to choose when you have kids. It's not anyone else's choice."

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OFFERS SERVICES, CLASHES WITH GOVERNMENT

According to the Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit organization focused on sexual and reproductive health research, teenagers still receive 19 percent of all abortions nationwide, despite the teen pregnancy rate dropping from 12 percent in 1990 to 8.6 percent in 2000. The abortion rate for teenagers also decreased, from 4.1 percent of teens in 1990 to 2.4 percent in 2000.

Junior Meredith Schoenberger wants to start a club at Shaker that supports abortion rights and is modeled after Vox, a program sponsored by Planned Parenthood that aims to "educate and inspire a new generation of young adults to advocate reproductive freedom," according to plannedparenthood.org. Vox currently exists only on college campuses.

Planned Parenthood is an organization of clinics that provide reproductive health care. They have an office just west of Shaker Square on Shaker Boulevard, but the only Planned Parenthood clinic in the Cleveland area that offers abortions is in Bedford. The fee for an abortion, either medical or surgical, is $320.

Tara Broderick, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland, said the organization opted out of government funding in 2004 because of the Ohio House Bill 66, which created a "choose life" fund to support anti-abortion agencies. Broderick said Planned Parenthood felt House Bill 66 put undue restrictions on clinics' ability to offer abortions.

"Our goal is to help all women," she said.

Planned Parenthood offers birth control, STD testing, emergency contraception, pregnancy tests and education on options for pregnant women. Broderick said all abortions are preceded by a face-to-face meeting with a doctor, and every patient is encouraged to come back for a follow-up after her abortion.

DEBATE OVER SEX EDUCATION MIRRORS ABORTION FIGHT

The decline in pregnancy rates has been attributed to more effective contraceptive use. Shaker health teacher Hubert McIntyre said he covers birth control and reproductive systems in addition to the state-mandated sexually transmitted disease unit. He said abortion usually comes up with one of the speakers or during a class discussion but there is no time specifically set-aside for the subject.

"The class is centered around getting students to think about what they're thinking about doing and making the best decision for you," said McIntyre, who has been teaching at Shaker for 29 years and has seen little substantive curriculum change. "We don't have any issues about discussing anything – there's no reason to shy away from anything."

Shaker's health curriculum stresses abstinence as the best choice, as every public school in the state does by law, but also gives students information about safe sex. Nationwide, the Bush administration has funded abstinence-only programs.

McIntyre said his lessons are heard but not always acted upon.

"Kids are receptive to them, but we can't make anyone actually do it," he said.

Schoenberger believes Shaker should continue to offer comprehensive sex education.

"Sexual education is just as important as other aspects [of a health class]," she said. "The class should get the basics down about how to protect yourself and where to get information."

Schoenberger says she supports abortion rights because having an abortion is a "personal choice."

"It's not that I'm pro-abortion – no one is – but everybody has a different situation and everybody has their own life," she said. "It angers me that someone, especially men in the government, would tell me what to do with my body."

Some anti-abortion activists believe abstinence-only health classes are the way to go.

Betty Turnage, a 42-year-old protestor outside of Preterm who had an abortion in 1982, believes schools should discuss only abstinence and be sure to include the development of babies and alternatives to abortion.

She became active in Silent No More in 1989 after she "woke up one day and looked in the mirror and realized that I killed my child." Turnage, now widowed, has three children and has named the aborted fetus "Sean."

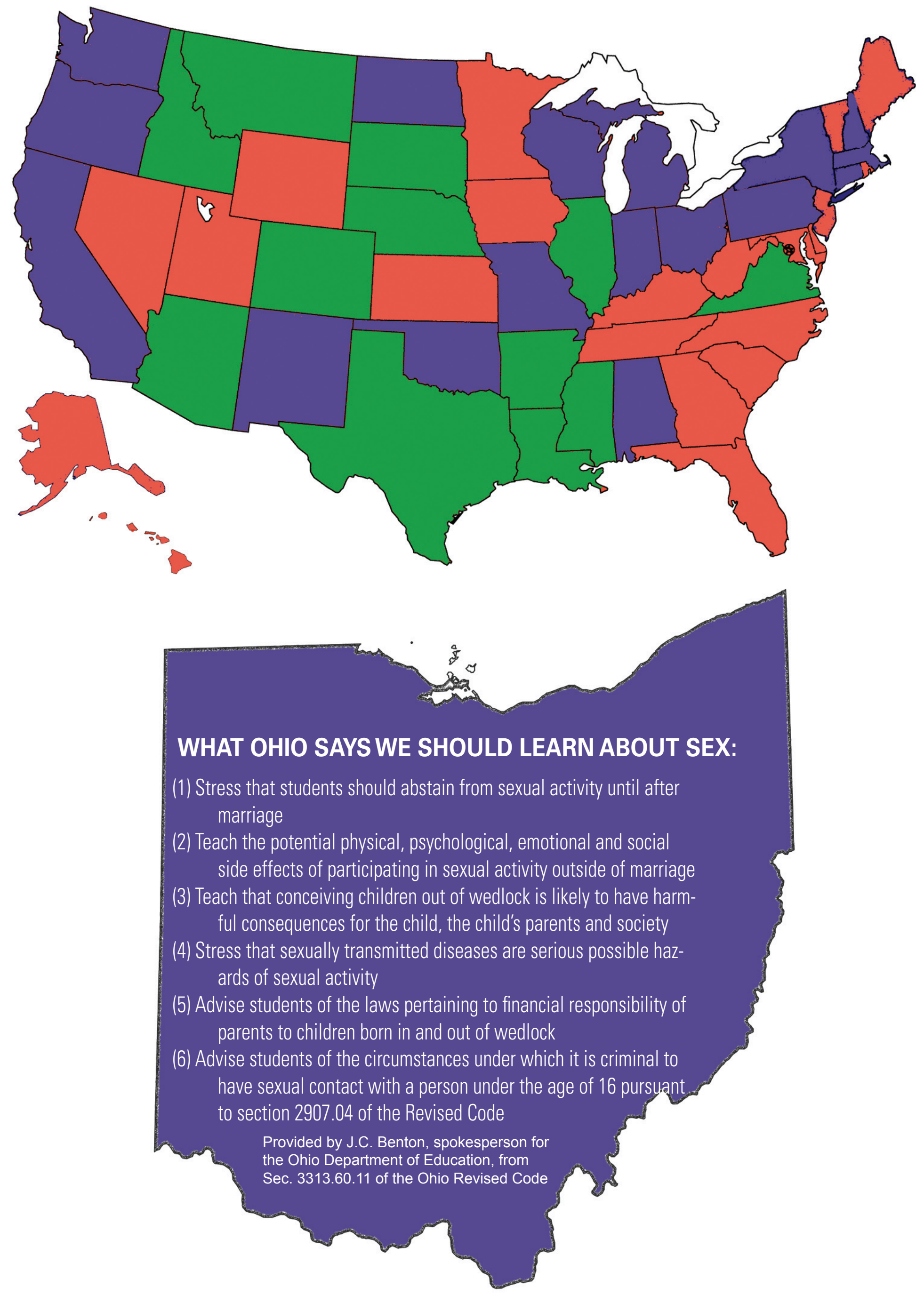
"Teenagers haven't reached an age when they can make rational decisions," Turnage said. "They don't consider how premarital sex will affect them. It hurts emotionally and physically."

McIntyre said some teenagers do comprehend the possible ramifications of having sex.

"People have different life experiences," he said. "Teenagers have attained different maturity levels."

*Mary and Steve requested that their last names not be used. Steve said he was afraid of drawing retribution from anti-abortion protestors.

What should students learn in school health classes?



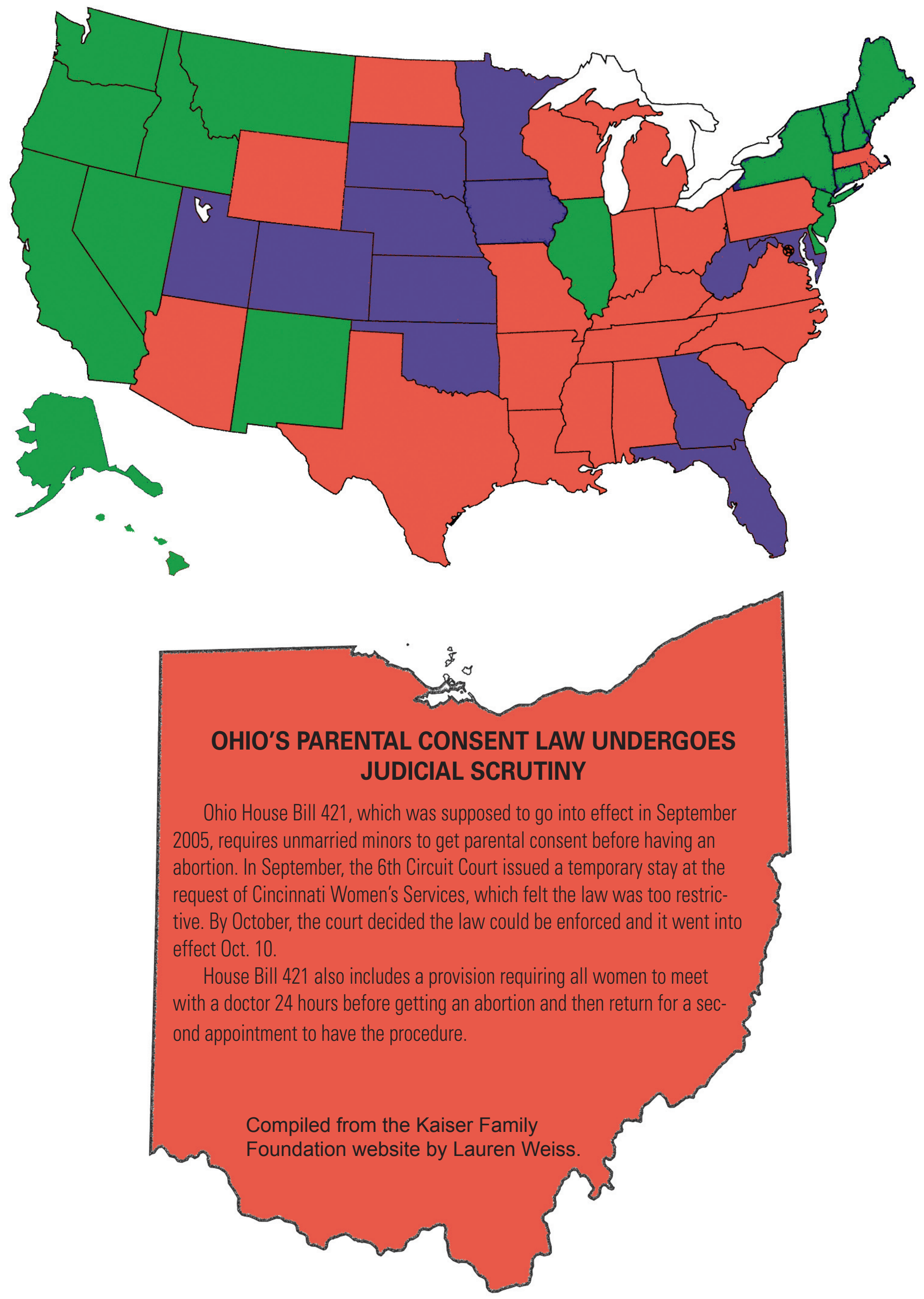
WHAT OHIO SAYS WE SHOULD LEARN ABOUT SEX:

(1) Stress that students should abstain from sexual activity until after marriage
(2) Teach the potential physical, psychological, emotional and social side effects of participating in sexual activity outside of marriage
(3) Teach that conceiving children out of wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents and society
(4) Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious possible hazards of sexual activity
(5) Advise students of the laws pertaining to financial responsibility of parents to children born in and out of wedlock
(6) Advise students of the circumstances under which it is criminal to have sexual contact with a person under the age of 16 pursuant to section 2907.04 of the Revised Code

Provided by J.C. Benton, spokesperson for the Ohio Department of Education, from Sec. 3313.60.11 of the Ohio Revised Code

🟥 STD/HIV, SEX ED MANDATED
🟪 STD/HIV LESSONS MANDATED
🟩 NEITHER MANDATED

How much control over teenage abortions should parents have?



OHIO'S PARENTAL CONSENT LAW UNDERGOES JUDICIAL SCRUTINY

Ohio House Bill 421, which was supposed to go into effect in September 2005, requires unmarried minors to get parental consent before having an abortion. In September, the 6th Circuit Court issued a temporary stay at the request of Cincinnati Women's Services, which felt the law was too restrictive. By October, the court decided the law could be enforced and it went into effect Oct. 10.

House Bill 421 also includes a provision requiring all women to meet with a doctor 24 hours before getting an abortion and then return for a second appointment to have the procedure.

Compiled from the Kaiser Family Foundation website by Lauren Weiss.

🟥 PARENTAL CONSENT MANDATED
🟪 PARENTAL NOTIFICATION MANDATED
🟩 NEITHER MANDATED

Infographic by Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

Data compiled by Lauren Weiss from the Guttmacher Institute

Supreme Court expands, then limits, abortion rights

1973

ROE V. WADE: Abortion in the first trimester is legal. Previously, abortion had been illegal in most states.

1973 SUPREME COURT

1976

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF CENTRAL MISSOURI V. DANFORTH: Parents and/or spouses do not have to consent to abortions.

1980

HARRIS V. MCRAE: Medicaid funding for abortions is restricted to procedures needed to protect the life of the pregnant woman and in other special circumstances.

1983

AKRON V. AKRON CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: Abortions do not have to be performed in a hospital nor is parental consent required.

1986

THORNBURGH V. AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS : Women seeking an abortion do not have to hear a state-sponsored lecture about risks and alternatives from their doctor.

1989

WEBSTER V. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES: States may prevent public employees and public facilities from performing abortions.

1992

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA V. CASEY: Clarifies Roe v. Wade to mean that abortion regulations cannot put an "undue burden" on women's constitutional rights.

1997

SCHENCK V. PRO-CHOICE NETWORK OF WESTERN NEW YORK: Abortion clinics can create "fixed buffer zones" around the clinics but cannot stop protestors from coming near people entering or exiting the buildings who are outside of the buffer zone.

2005 SUPREME COURT

2005

AYOTTE V. PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND: States may require parental notification before a minor has an abortion but must include an exception if the girl's life is in immediate jeopardy.

Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

Dates compiled by Lauren Weiss from npr.org and the Cornell Law School.

TEENAGE MOM LOVES HER NEW LIFE

• After graduating early, Jennifer Malin ('06) spends her days with daughter, Mia

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Malin

JENNIFER MALIN ('06) holds daughter Mia Malin, who was born Dec. 7, 2005. Jennifer, 17, graduated six months early and lives with her husband, Art Malin ('05).

Former Shaker student Jennifer Malin ('06) gave birth to daughter Mia Ayala Malin Dec. 7, 2005, 10 months and three days after marrying Art Malin ('05). Despite statistics that suggest teen mothers are less likely to graduate from high school and more likely to go on welfare than other teens, Jennifer, 17, has graduated and made plans for her life. She talks about being a pregnant teenager, weighing her options and what motherhood is really like.

Question & Answer

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION WHEN YOU FOUND OUT YOU WERE PREGNANT?

When I found out, I kind of suspected it because it wasn't exactly prevented even though it wasn't planned. We had talked before about having a family, so when I found out I really couldn't believe it. I took, like, three pregnancy tests just to make sure. My husband was there, and he was just as excited as I was. I just started shaking, I was so excited.

Q. DID ANYONE EVER SUGGEST TO YOU THAT YOU SHOULDN'T KEEP THE BABY?

Yes. Somebody in our really close family, his family, suggested I get an abortion. His words were that "we weren't ready, we couldn't take care of ourselves, so how could we take care of a baby?"

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO THAT?

I was pretty pissed off, I couldn't believe it. When I heard it, I was, like, this person is not even going to be a part of this baby's life . . . I don't believe in abortion. I don't believe that if you knew you were going to get pregnant, no matter what you did, no matter if it was the right circumstances, I don't believe in abortion. I feel that if you have sex and you don't use protection, that's not the baby's fault . . . And what [that family member] did, he just completely disrespected me. I didn't think it was right. I held a grudge for a really long time.

Sometimes I think about him, and I think about her meeting this person, you know, being a part of this person's life, and I feel kind of guilty 'cause how would she react in the future if I had told her that he wanted me to get an abortion? And now, it still kind of hurts because everybody is a part of her life, but when I was pregnant, when it counted, this person and a couple other people didn't care.

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Malin

JENNIFER MALIN ('06) hugs daughter Mia moments after she was born Dec. 7, 2005. Jennifer graduated early from the high school so she could stay home with her daughter and plans to enter college in a few years. She hopes to become a special education teacher.

Q.DID YOU EVER CONSIDER GIVING HER UP FOR ADOPTION?

Never. Definitely not.

Q. HOW'S IT GOING?

Oh my God, it's amazing. Everybody's like, "it's going to be hard."

And, I mean, don't get me wrong, it's hard. You want time to spend with the person you love, you know, doing couple things. You want to sleep for at least six hours in the night, you want to take naps or do whatever it is that you want but you can't. But it's great, because I look at her and I'm like, "Oh, I created this little person." So I'm willing to give up everything I do for fun for her . . . I have a blast with her, like when we're just watching TV.

Q. WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS SAY WHEN YOU TOLD THEM YOU WERE PREGNANT?

Unfortunately, my father doesn't speak to me. He's starting to get there. He kind of felt that I was going to fall into the statistics, like that most teenage moms don't finish school. He's starting to get used to it, and now that he's finding out that I'm graduating, he realizes that what I did wasn't so bad.

And my mom, she said she already knew – she said she had mother's instinct or something like that. But she loves the baby. I mean, when I was pregnant she would talk to her and just be a grandmother.

Q. WHAT WOULD YOU TELL ANOTHER 16- OR 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO FOUND OUT SHE WAS PREGNANT?

I would tell them that your life isn't over, which is a lot of what people assume when you get pregnant. They say that your whole future is over, that you can't have fun, you can't drink, you can't do a whole bunch of things. But that's not the way it is; you just have somebody you're responsible for. You can do so many things; it doesn't matter if you have one child or two, if you have the right support system and you have the right goals in mind and you have your heart set on it you can raise this child and make an amazing world for you and your child and your family. You can go to school, you can be whatever you want. It'll be hard. I don't want any teenage girl to think that it's easy because it's not, but she can do it if she sets her mind to it.

Q. WHAT ARE YOU PLANS FOR THE REST OF HIGH SCHOOL?

I was really excited when I found out I was graduating because a lot of people when they found out I was pregnant thought I wouldn't finish school. I actually have a 3.8 GPA and I'm on the honor roll. I graduated early, obviously, earlier than I had intended to. I had anticipated on graduating at the semester, but the baby was born three weeks early, so I wasn't able to achieve that goal, but I ended up graduating.

I'm going to wait a couple years until my husband gets his career going, and then I'm going to go to school. I want to be a special ed teacher.

Q. WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU EVER GOT ABOUT BEING PREGNANT OR BECOMING A MOTHER?

The best advice I got was from my mom, and she said no matter how bad things get, realize that you're responsible for this person and you don't matter as much. Now you can't worry about things that make you sad, or things that make you depressed; you have to learn to be patient because now you have a child and whatever you do affects their future.

Q. ART: WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A DAD?

It's one of the best things that's ever happened to me . . . You've got, like, a little you. It's a crazy, amazing thing.

I was scared at first - any regular teenager would be scared at first - but Jenny comforted me and then I was excited.

Compiled by Lauren Weiss

The Beat

03.01.06

heard in the halls

"Gay pretzels have feelings, too!"
2/3

"Doesn't she look like that guy from Earth, Wind and Fire?"
2/3

"I gotta warm up my pimp hand."
1/31

"I slept with Orlando Bloom back when he was 17 and I was 3, so that we were still legal."
2/3

"All hail the Sultan of Science."
1/20

"How can you be an oompa loompa with an eating disorder?"
2/15

> People always assume I'm Irish because of my red hair, even though I'm mostly Italian.
>
> Hannah T'Kindt

• St. Patrick's Day celebrations uniquely American

IRISH
FOR
A DAY

BY MEGHAN THOMPSON
STAFF REPORTER

While some Shaker students will be left searching for pots of gold in their classrooms this St. Patrick's Day, others will skip school completely for an afternoon downtown at Cleveland's 139th St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"It was the most fun [I had] of any day last year!" said junior Laura Stern, who attended the 2005 parade. "It was my first time, and everyone on the Rapid was [drunk] except for us."

The parade held in honor of St. Patrick's Day is one of many held around the world in honor of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Traditionally, St. Patrick's Day is a religious and cultural festival celebrated by the Irish and select denominations of the Christian religion. The holiday is celebrated March 17, which is thought to be the burial date of St. Patrick, who was actually born in Britain, not Ireland. St. Patrick is credited with helping to abolish paganism, and folklore states that he drove the snakes, symbolic of the Druid people, from the country. The theme of this year's Cleveland parade is Irish Art and Architecture.

According to Stern, the parade attracts "rowdy" teens and Clevelanders in their 20s. Junior Katie Stamm, who attended the parade with Stern after OGT testing last year, was glad to see the city so alive.

"It was exciting to see something happening in Cleveland. There were veterans walking and waving. It was better than school," Stamm said. "St. Patrick's Day is a reason to celebrate and party."

Because the holiday falls on a Friday during OGT testing this year, student attendance at the parade may likely increase. However, Annette Sankey, who is in charge of attendance at the high school, does not recall attendance being a problem on March 17 last year. "In the past, it has not been an issue," Sankey said.

French teacher Eileen Willis, who came to the United States from Ireland in 1987, has observed an enthusiastic difference in the St. Patrick's Day observations in the United States. "It's sort of trendy . . . people want to celebrate whether they are Irish or not. Everyone jumps on the bandwagon. It's much more of a party atmosphere," Willis said.

In Ireland, Willis celebrated St. Patrick's Day as a holy day of obligation. "In Ireland, it's a traditional religious holiday. I would go to mass and then I would participate in a parade [as an Irish dancer or girl scout]," she said. "It was pretty low key after that; we would just have a family dinner."

Senior Bridget O'Dwyer spent the second semester of her sophomore year abroad in Ireland. She was in Ireland March 17, 2004, but doesn't recall any special celebration. "I don't remember celebrating at all," she said. "St. Patrick's Day is completely Americanized. It's really played up here."

Willis notes that the widespread celebration of the holiday in the United States has positive implications. "It's not a religious holiday [here], and it's much more encompassing. It makes people somewhat aware of Irish heritage," she said.

She does believe that most students "celebrating" St. Patrick's Day don't know the history behind the holiday. "I sense they don't know about the history or who St. Patrick is," Willis said. "[I wonder if some students] know where Ireland is."

While wearing green March 17 is the norm for many students, most of whom are not Irish, others celebrate St. Patrick's in traditional ways.

For freshman Joanie Clougherty, St. Patrick's Day is a time to remember and celebrate her ancestry. "We have a big family dinner, and then we look through a map of Ireland and trace our roots," she said.

However, Willis believes these dishes to be Irish-American. "I had never heard of corned beef and cabbage [until I came to America]," she said. "People would've eaten bacon and cabbage."

At Shaker however, a St. Patrick's Day celebration mainly entails wearing green.

"I wear green clothes," senior Natalie Morgan said. "It's just something I do."

> Generally I forget when the day is . . . When I come to school I'm like, 'Oh it's St. Patrick's Day . . . whoops!
>
> Max Rothman, Sophomore

WAYS TO GET INTO THE ST. PATTY'S DAY SPIRIT WITHOUT SKIPPING SCHOOL

BUY GREEN CARNATIONS

A cute gift, these carnations are full of St. Patrick's Day spirit.

They can be made easily and relatively cheaply, so they also are great for those people out there who are low on cash. Just buy a few white carnations and some green food coloring, and put the carnations in a vase full of green water. Pretty soon, the carnations will be a lovely green, and you will have a great gift.

WEAR A CLAUDDAGH RING

A Claddagh ring is an Irish symbol. While it is not exactly related to St. Patrick's Day, it is still Irish, so it has spirit. The ring means, "Let love and friendship reign." The major bonus of this ring is that it works as a relationship status indicator. If the heart is aiming away from the wearer, then he or she is looking for love. If the heart is aiming towards the wearer, it shows that he or she is not available. For the worst St. Patrick's Day Grinch, the ring can be worn to indicate the wearer is in a relationship, thus warding off the annoying kid in his or her math class. However, pushing away love on this holiday defeats the meaning.

EAT LUCKY CHARMS

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Perhaps the easiest way to get in the holiday mood barring putting on a green T-shirt is to enjoy a bowl of Lucky Charms for breakfast. Wash down your pots of gold and rainbows with some green Kool-Aid, and have a fun-filled breakfast. Put down the morning Sudoku, turn on the Irish flute music and eat Lucky Charms. If that won't get you in the St. Patrick's Day mindset, nothing will.

Compiled by Amanda Orr

TOP TEN EXCUSES FOR MISSING SCHOOL ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

top 10

10 You got lost following a rainbow while trying to find the pot of gold

9 You got beat up for wearing orange

8 It was a Friday

7 You were too hungover from that "Irish tradition"

6 Your eyes were sore from searching for four-leaf clovers

5 Your legs were aching from chasing leprechauns

4 Your stomach was reeling from corned beef and cabbage

3 You couldn't get the green paint off your face

2 You were busy helping drunks crowd onto the Rapid

1 The parade

Compiled by Wesley Lowery

SENATORS, THE WIG MAN COMETH

Photos courtesy of AirFordOne.com

BY KATE GUESS
THE BEAT EDITOR

Dan Vovak is running for the Senate. Dan Vovak also wears a powdered wig and drives a Mustang he calls "Air Ford One." Politicians are expected to have a few idiosyncrasies: making up words, using Botox and dating strippers, for example.

But Daniel Vovak defies reason and sanity.

An Ohio native, Vovak ran against Shaker mayor Judy Rawson in 1998. His claim to fame in Shaker was that he visited every house in Shaker to win votes. In addition to gathering votes house-to-house, Vovak promoted his campaign at a memorial service he arranged for Penny Chang, a Shaker student who was murdered on her way to school near the Shaker Library. Crying students huddled together, surrounded by TV cameras and a sign that prominently displayed Vovak's name.

DAN VOVAK WAVES from inside Air Ford One

Since campaigning in Shaker, the self-proclaimed "Wig head" has campaigned in seven states as well as Washington, D.C. without success. As news of his most recent campaign effort — to be elected to the U.S. Senate from Maryland — seeped onto the Internet, I gave Vovak a call.

"Shaker had the highest taxes, and the worst environment," he said. "Shaker Democrats are hypocrites . . . black kids go in black doors and white kids go in white doors. Prior to Shaker, I used to believe that Democrats helped poor people, and Republicans were wealthy." He then went on to tell me about a book he was writing called "Shakergate," which is based on his experiences in Shaker. He has already published a book called "Will You Run For President?" in which he describes his protagonist, Luke Vovak, as "a white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant male, [but] he was suffering severe discrimination. Blacks were eligible to run for president, as were Jews, American Indians and gays, yet he was forbidden to hold the nation's highest office merely for something he could not control -- his age," Vovak said in a 2003 interview.

Yes, Daniel Vovak seems born to make people angry.

"Judy Rawson was a snob. But she was the better candidate," he said of the current Shaker mayor. He also shed light on his door-to-door campaigning in Shaker.

"When I went door to door, people opened up the door naked. Married women. Dogs bit me, kids touched me with their gooey hands," Vovak said.

According to the Wig, his campaign is going more smoothly in Maryland.

"I have one county supporting me, and there's only 23 left," he said, assuring me that he had all the time in the world: seven months.

"If the Wig Man defeats a weak lieutenant governor, that's news. Nationally," he said. And if there's one thing The Wig Man knows, it's good news.

"I get stories about me that are 2,000 words long. Do you know how long that is?" Vovak asked. "When I ran for president in Iowa, a reporter won first place for best news story medium-sized daily. That's a serious thing."

Speaking of serious things, when I asked the Wig what he thought about the recent drug-running tunnel discovery on the Texas-Mexican border, he claimed ignorance.

It seems he was more concerned about writing a frivolous court case than keeping up with the news. Maryland won't let him run under the name, "Daniel 'The Wig Man' Vovak," or put that name on the ballot. The Senate hopeful told me they opposed using "the" in any kind of ballot. He is now writing a 500-page complaint case without using the word "the" to prove his point.

"It's a game I get to play. I'm on a crusade to eliminate the 'the,' " Vovak said.

God help the state of Maryland.

REMEMBERING VOVAK'S SHAKER RUN

Judy Rawson, Shaker mayor

"I would urge any resident of any community to look very carefully into Dan Vovak's true record, character and values before supporting him. In Shaker Heights, his campaign began as puzzlement, developed into an embarrassment and culminated in a humiliating rejection by the voters after he tried to divide the community along racial, religious and economic lines. The ability of 83 percent of voters to look beneath the surface and emphatically reject him as a backward looking, divisive and narrow-minded candidate was pretty impressive. We're lucky he's moved on."

Helen Sheehan, Rawson campaign '98

"He liked to use props to divert people from the real issues. He's out of touch with reality. He's threatened by women who are more powerful than him, like Judy."

Mary Powell, Shaker resident

"Judy beat him five to one. As soon as the race was over, [Vovak] left town. That shows that his commitment wasn't to Shaker, it was to Dan Vovak."

Photos courtesy of Helen Sheehan, Herbert Ascherman and shakeronline.com

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IN THE WORLD OF A GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

ALYSSA COHEN
STAFF REPORTER

Between finals, schedule changes and the dreaded report cards, the school is abuzz with rattled nerves and stress. And nobody knows this better than Eileen Blattner.

As the chairwoman of the guidance department, Blattner works with students to help them make the best decisions in the classroom and beyond.

"I love the excitement and the interaction with students, teachers and parents, " Blattner said.

Guidance counselors have a laundry list of duties that include planning schedules, writing college recommendations and supporting students who continually struggle to pass, and for Blattner this means spending hours in front of the computer. She is bombarded each semester with a fresh batch of schedule changes, which is the biggest challenge of her position.

Much of her time during the first week of second semester is devoted to conferences with students who are considering schedule changes or are failing classes.

"Every student comes down at the same time to change their schedules," Blattner said. "I hate schedule changes. Sometimes I just have to say 'no' to a student."

Although this may seem overwhelming (a security guard is posted at the main office counter to prevent harried students from flooding the guidance office), Blattner claims that she doesn't get upset.

"I'm not usually frustrated . . . I get really tired," she said.

Blattner, who attended the Shaker schools ('63) and graduated from Case Western Reserve University, has been the department chairwoman since 1990. She decided to become a guidance counselor because of her passion for helping and interacting with people.

"I love working with students and helping them achieve their goals," she said.

In addition to dealing with requests for changing classes, counselors also devote much of their time to college applications. October through December, Blattner estimates she spends about half of her time working on college-related activities. During late winter, college-related work is condensed to one-quarter of Blattner's time, but spring brings about the arrival of college admissions letters and school choices.

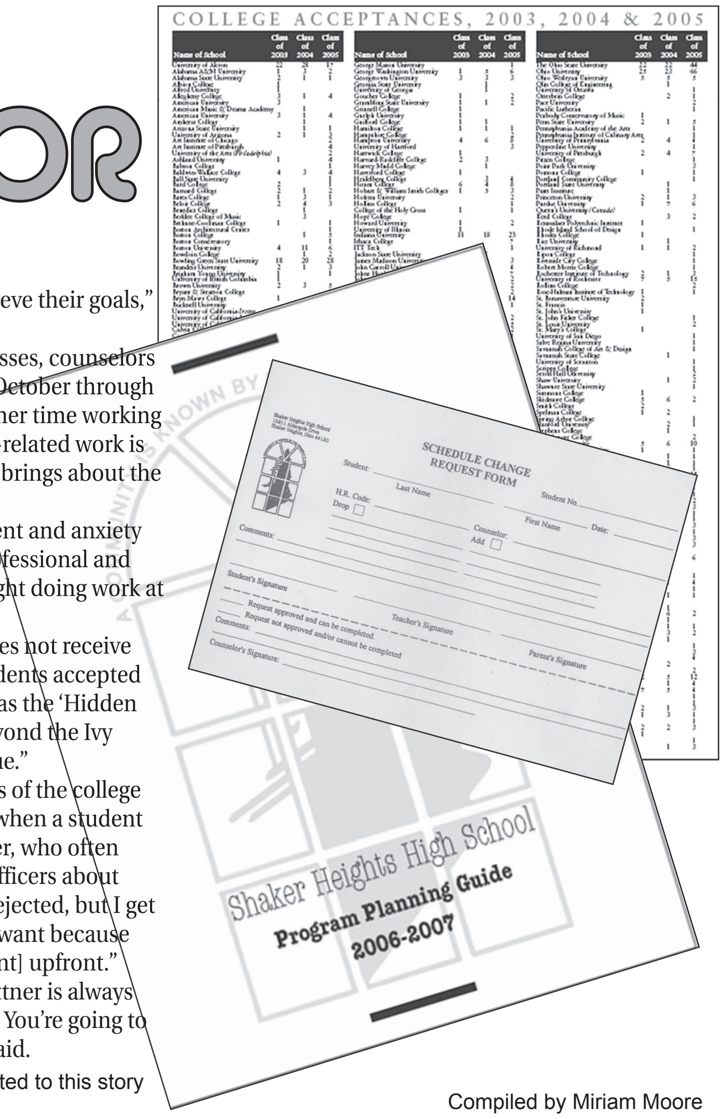
The college application process is a time of excitement and anxiety for the guidance department, consuming both their professional and personal lives. "I usually spend around three hours a night doing work at home during college application time," Blattner said.

Blattner explained that the guidance department does not receive pressure from the community or the school to have students accepted to the most selective universities. "I hand out lists such as the 'Hidden Gems' sheet to students to try and expand their lists beyond the Ivy League," she said. "You can never count on an Ivy League."

Most importantly, Blattner enjoys the ups and downs of the college admissions process. "I have been moved to tears of joy when a student gets accepted to the school that they want," said Blattner, who often makes personal phone calls to speak with admissions officers about specific students. "I don't get upset when students are rejected, but I get very upset when they cannot go to the school that they want because their parents cannot afford it and did not tell [the student] upfront."

No matter the outcomes of college applications, Blattner is always available for life lessons. "Happiness is a frame of mind. You're going to do fine wherever you are with a positive attitude," she said.

Miriam Moore contributed to this story


COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES, 2003, 2004 & 2005
SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUEST FORM
Shaker Heights High School
Program Planning Guide
2006-2007

Compiled by Miriam Moore

EILEEN BLATTNER

Hometown: Shaker Heights.
How long have you been a guidance counselor? 21 years.
Where did you go to college? Case Western Reserve University and John Carroll.
What is your average stress level from 1 to 5 with 1 being not stressed? 2 or 3.
What are your hobbies outside of school? Tennis, grandchildren and reading.
What is your favorite food? Chocolate!
What is your favorite restaurant? Giovanni's.
What would you be if you were not a guidance counselor? A Counselor outside of school, such as a psychologist.
What is the first thing you would do if you won $1 million? Figure out how to give a lot of it away.
Favorite animal? Dogs.
Who is your celebrity crush? Paul Newman.

FREDDIE HOLMAN

Hometown: Pittsburgh.
How long have you been a guidance counselor? More years than I'm willing to admit.
Where did you go to college? Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and University of Toledo.
What is your average stress level from 1 to 5 with 1 being not stressed? It varies. I'm normally at a good stress level.
What are your hobbies outside of school? Reading, drawing, exercising and crafts.
What is your favorite food? Good food. It makes me happy.
What would you be if you were not a guidance counselor? Something in art or a librarian.
Favorite animal? Dogs.
Who is your celebrity crush? I don't have a celebrity crush, but I admire Morgan Freeman.

SUSAN ISLER

Hometown: University Heights.
How long have you been a guidance counselor? Five years at Shaker, 25 years in education.
Where did you go to college? James Madison College of Michigan State University and Boston University.
What is your average stress level from 1 to 5 with 1 being not stressed? 2.5.
What are your hobbies outside of school? Traveling and swimming.
What is your favorite restaurant? Tremont restaurants.
What is the first thing you would do if you won $1 million? Breathe a sigh of relief that I would not have to pay for college.
Favorite animal? Dogs.
Who is your celebrity crush? My husband [social studies teacher Tim Mitchell].

GERIMAE KLEINMAN

Hometown: Cleveland.
How long have you been a guidance counselor? 16 years.
Where did you go to college? Elmira College and John Carroll University.
What is your average stress level from 1 to 5, with 1 being not stressed? I don't stress. I try to stay pretty even.
What are your hobbies outside of school? Gourmet cooking, golf, spending time with my children and grandchild.
What is your favorite food? Cookies!
What is your favorite restaurant? Sans Soucie and Yours Truly.
What would you be if you were not a guidance counselor? I don't know . . . a lawyer?
Favorite animal? My dog, Lady, and llamas.
Who is your celebrity crush? Steven Segal.

MS. LARUE*

Hometown: Cleveland Heights.
How long have you been a guidance counselor? This is my first year.
Where did you go to college? Case Western Reserve University and University of Akron.
What is your average stress level from 1 to 5 with 1 being not stressed? 4
What are your hobbies outside of school? Traveling, spending time with my Chihuahua, Chi Chi, and going to the movies.
What is your favorite food? Ice cream.
What is your favorite restaurant? Maggiano's at Beachwood Place.
Favorite animal? Chihuahuas!
Who is your celebrity crush? Terrence Howard.

* LaRue requested her first name be withheld.

R. JEFFREY LEWIS

Hometown: Shaker Heights.
How long have you been a guidance counselor? Since 1985.
Where did you go to college? Wittenberg, Case Western Reserve University, Kent State and Cleveland State.
What is your average stress level from 1 to 5 with 1 being not stressed? Depends upon the moment; 3.
What are your hobbies outside of school? Gardening.
What is your favorite food? Chocolate.
What is your favorite restaurant? The Black Pearl in New Port, Rhode Island.
What would you be if you were not a guidance counselor? Landscape architect or culinary chef.
What is the first thing you would do if you won $1 million? Hit the beach.

RONALD MORGAN

Hometown: Plain City, OH.
How long have you been a guidance counselor? Nine years.
Where did you go to college? Baldwin Wallace and Northwestern University.
What is your average stress level from 1 to 5 with 1 being not stressed? 3.
What are your hobbies outside of school? I like to bicycle, kayak and I am a church organist and choir director.
What is your favorite restaurant? Tremont restaurants.
What is the first thing you would do if you won $1 million? Pay off bills and buy a vacation house, but keep working.
Favorite animal? Dogs.

DAVID PETERJOHN

Hometown: Shaker Heights.
How long have you been a guidance counselor? 11 years.
Where did you go to college? College of Wooster and John Carroll University.
What is your average stress level from 1 to 5 with 1 being not stressed? Around 3.
What are your hobbies outside of school? Spending time with family and friends and golfing.
What is your favorite food? Italian.
What is your favorite restaurant? Brennan's Colony on Lee Road.
What would you be if you were not a guidance counselor? Teaching and coaching baseball.
Favorite animal? Dogs.
Who is your celebrity crush? Julia Roberts.

‘BROKEBACK’ IS NOT WORTH HYPE OR THE $7.50

“Brokeback Mountain” has been nominated for eight Academy Awards. This film, however, is incredibly underwhelming. The film was adapted from a 50-page short story. The story moves slowly, and I felt little emotional attachment to any of the characters. The two things that this movie does have going for it are stellar acting and an important topic. The subject is a tough one, and I commend director Ang Lee and author Annie Proulx for tackling the difficult and previously ignored issue of homosexuals in the intolerant cowboy world. This movie had so much potential, if only the plot were more engaging. ★★ out of 4 - Liz Kantor

Comedies are movies, too

Liz Kantor

Forget the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild Awards. Oscar night is the biggest night in the movie business.

The Academy Awards are supposed to honor the best of the movie crop each year. This year’s Best Picture nominees are “Crash,” “Brokeback Mountain,” “Munich,” “Capote” and “Good Night, and Good Luck.”

Though each has its merits, this was a year of good comedies – but the Academy will never admit it.

Two of the best movies I saw this year were (gasp) comedies. Historically, the Academy has snubbed this genre. Only 12 (13 if you count “Shakespeare in Love”) of 78 Best Picture winners have been comedies. The height of the Academy’s respect for comedies occurred in the 1930s and 1960s, when three comedies won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

Film critic Richard Roeper has it right: “There’s nothing more difficult for an actor or writer than making the audience laugh out loud. Why are we so quick to hand out trophies for movies that make us cry, yet so reluctant to honor films and performances that pull off that difficult feat of making us laugh?”

If I were voting for the nominees for Best Picture, the winners would be “The 40-Year-Old Virgin” and “Wedding Crashers.”

These movies break the comedy code. “Wedding Crashers” was not your typical Owen Wilson/Vince Vaughn/Will Ferrell comedy featuring two hours of men being dumb boys. And when Steve Carell’s character in “Virgin” goes to Planned Parenthood with his girlfriend’s daughter, he embarrasses her by asking more questions than she does. It is one of the best comedy scenes ever.

However, this year’s Oscar-worthy comedies were not confined to big feature films. “The Aristocrats” is a documentary about one of the dirtiest jokes in comic history. Just because this film was risqué (and even that doesn’t cover how dirty this movie is) doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be nominated.

Over time, comedies have unfortunately flatlined. They are about guys -- no matter how old -- acting like they did in their frat boy days. These films should not be nominated for an Oscar. However, even when comedies avoid the formula, they go unrecognized.

The Academy should value the challenge comedic actors face. They work just as hard as dramatic actors, but get the same amount of recognition as the worst summer movies.

The Golden Globes separate the Best Picture category into drama and comedy. Why can’t the Academy do the same? That way the Academy could do justice to the good comedies. There is no law that says the Oscars cannot change as the times change. As comedies have become more prevalent and respected in the film community, the Oscars should change as well.

You need only turn on the news to find something to cry about. Why worry about crying when you go to the movies? The Academy should value the films that elicit tears of laughter, too.

THEY SHOULD’VE BEEN CONTENDERS

Welcome to the list of the most overlooked movies of 2005. The Academy Awards are March 5. Here are the movies that should have been nominated for Best Picture of 2005.

Have an idea for next month’s Rent This? Send your ideas for movies and topics to shakerite@shaker.org with “Rent This” as the subject.

Compiled by Kate Guess and Liz Kantor

“PRIDE AND PREJUDICE”

Based on Jane Austen’s novel of the same name, this is the first feature-length film of the novel. Without being overly long and boring, it is one of the best films of the year. Kiera Knightley proves that she can do more than be a pirate-loving girl. The Academy robbed this film of eternal glory.

“BATMAN BEGINS”

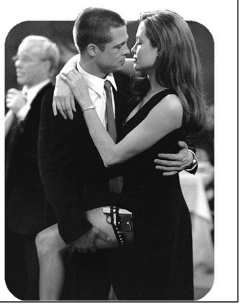
This film sets the foundation of the Batman’s crusade in Gotham City. Christian Bale gives a stunning performance as Bruce Wayne, despite having to act opposite Katie Holmes. Plenty of hand-to-hand combat, intelligent dialogue and a macho Batmobile make this one of the most overlooked movies of the year.

“WEDDING CRASHERS”

One of the best comedies of the year features three of the seven “Frat Pack” members (Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson), who do more than just make potty jokes for two hours. The girls do something more than act as sexual objects. The best comedy of the year definitely deserved a Best Picture nomination.

“MR. AND MRS. SMITH”

This is a smart, sexy adventure with equally thrilling stars. If you and your boo are struggling, watch this and it’ll re-kindle your relationship. Snappy dialogue, thrilling action sequences and smoldering performances by Brad and Angelina should have brought the Smiths into the nominations.



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What’s better than reading about Brad and Angelina’s sex life?

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‘JAH ROY’ ROCKS REGGAE AND HISTORY

BY JOSH DAVIDSON
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

So your history teacher’s a drummer in a reggae band.

Wait, what?

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

Indeed, there is such a character in our midst at Shaker Heights High School. Roy Isaacs, who teaches American History, Music History, African-American History and American Problems, also plays in one of Cleveland’s most famous reggae bands, Carlos Jones and the PLUS Band.

Isaacs received strong musical inspiration from his father. “I remember mainly his singing me to sleep with a guitar strumming chords,” said Isaacs, whose parents also introduced him to classical and Indian music.

Isaacs’ journey into reggae began at age 10, the year Bob Marley died.

“I didn’t really know who he was, but I knew that a lot of people had some strong feelings when the news of his death became widespread,” he said. “I felt then that I would learn who this man was.”

In addition, Isaacs “saw in reggae music that there was a nelement that attracted all kinds of people. Also the undeniable message of ‘One Love’ hooked me.”

And from there the history teacher continued to expand his percussion horizons.

After graduating from Cleveland Heights High School in 1989, he went to India to stay with his family. While abroad, he studied the traditional Indian style of drumming.

It was not until 1990, when he returned to the United States, that he started to partake in the “Afro-Carribean” style he uses today in the PLUS Band.

Photo Courtesy of www.carlosjones.com

ROY ISAACS PERFORMS with Carlos Jones and the PLUS Band. Isaacs has been in the group since its beginning in 1994.

In addition to living in India for a year, Isaacs has worked in and survived civil wars in Colombia and Nepal. He says this helps him give a personal connection to students when they study the American Civil War.

Isaacs’ band regularly plays Cleveland Heights’ Grog Shop, in addition to the Hessler Street Fair and this year’s Ingenuity Festival. Combining pop and reggae sounds, the band rates among “Cleveland’s best-loved artists,” according to Scene Magazine writer Jason Bracelin.

Isaacs’ teaching life started due to a connection he feels to teenagers. He first worked as a social worker in a juvenile court in Cuyahoga County but said, “It got to be a bit discouraging with suicides and abuse situations.”

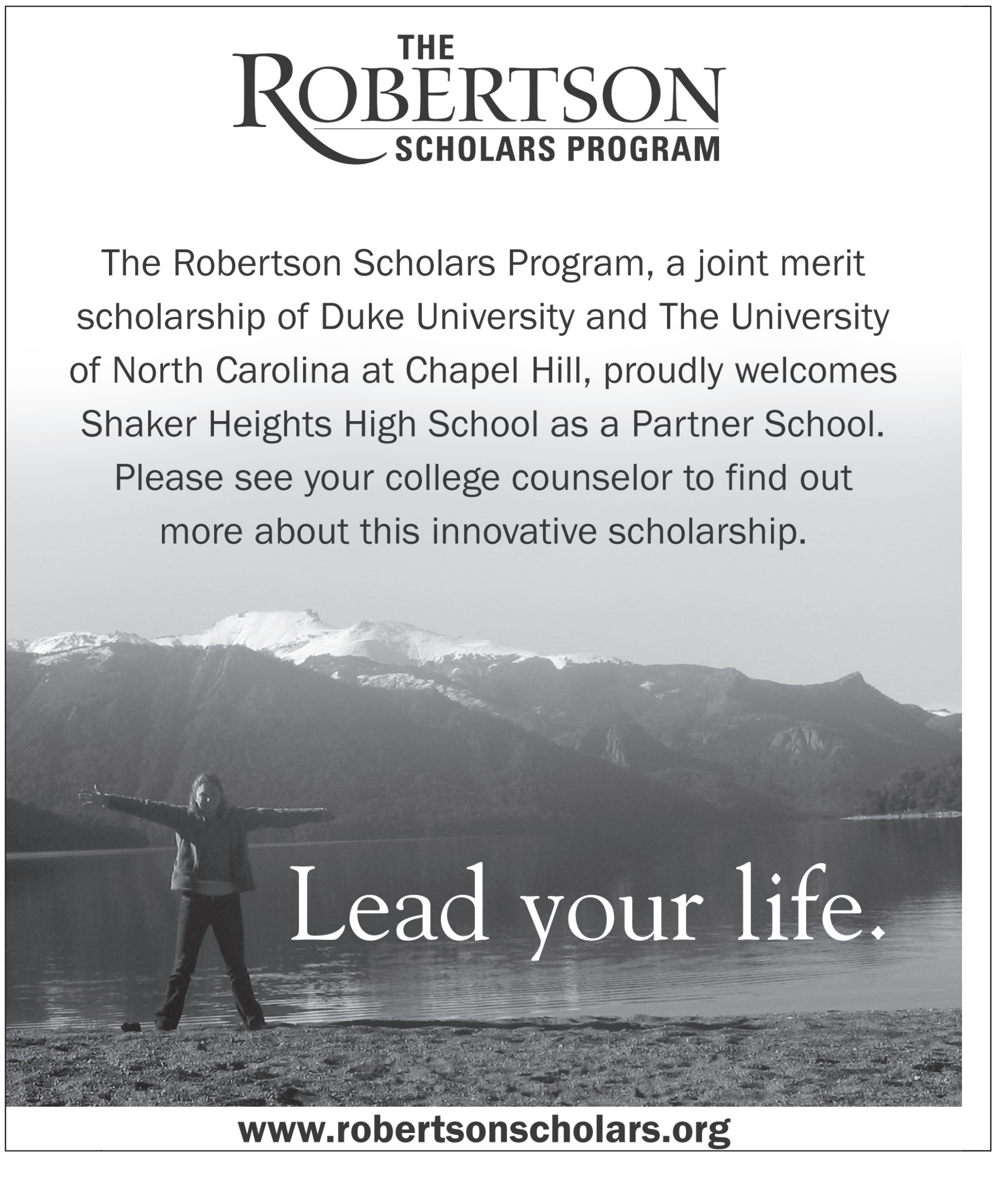
Yet, he still wanted to work with teens and loved history, so teaching seemed like a good choice.

Matt Seamen, a sophomore who takes Isaacs’ American History class, used to be bored by history, but to his surprise, enjoys Isaacs’ class. “We spent a lot of time on current issues, which keeps the class from being boring,” Seamen said.

In addition Isaacs uses his personal life as an attention grabber in the classroom. “He talks about his family in India and how he’s different from everyone else,” said junior Tony Bevel, who took Isaacs’ American History class in tenth grade and is taking African-American History this year.

“He tries to mix his music with what’s going on in the class,” Bevel said.

This is Isaacs’ second year at Shaker. He has also taught in Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, New Mexico and Colombia, in addition to being a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal.



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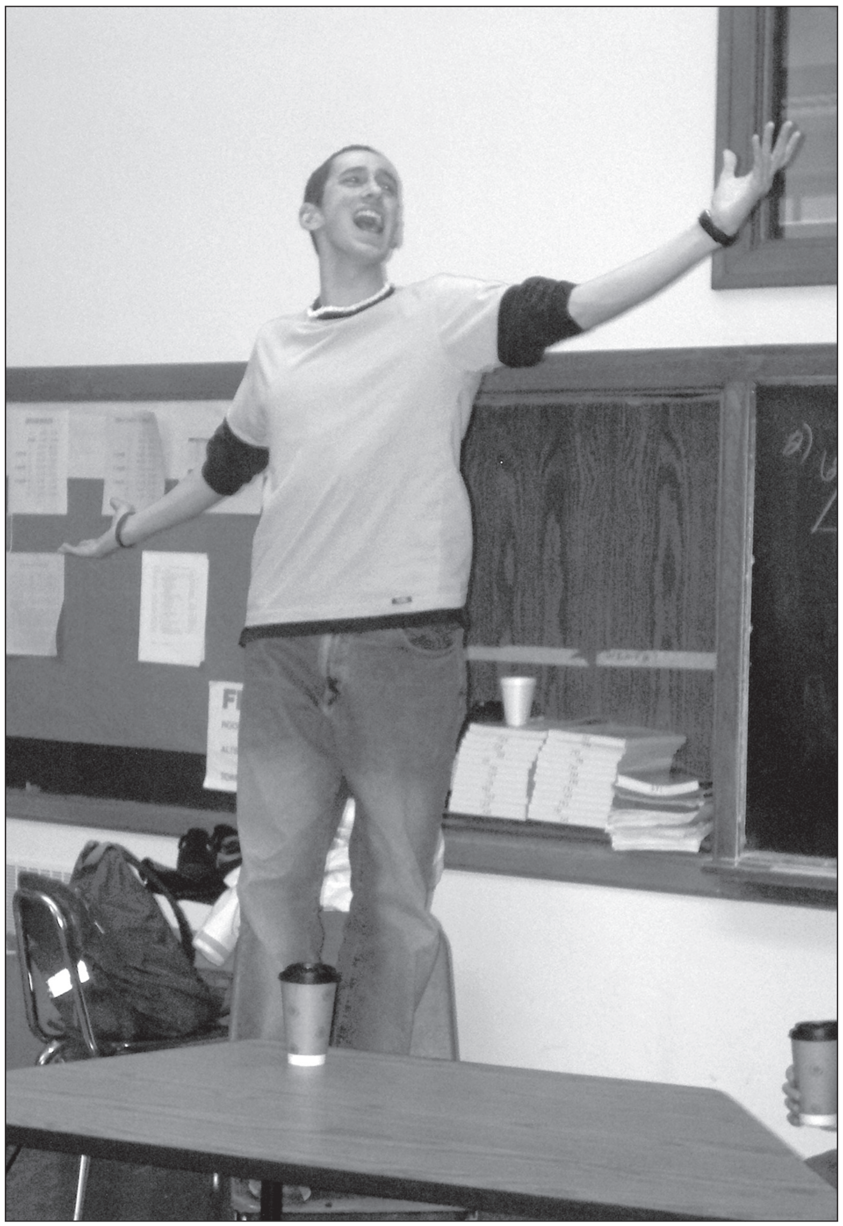
WRITING, ACTING, DIRECTING, OH MY



Liz Kantor • The Shakerite

SOPHOMORE JACK SUTORIUS rehearses during individual work time before the dress rehearsal. RIGHT: Senior Anna Weinstein gives direction to her cast during the tech rehearsal. BELOW: Junior Anastasia Frank makes props for her cast before the dress rehearsal Feb. 13.

• Theater students take control for New Stages XXIV, bringing 6 original plays to life for Stage 3 audiences

BY COURTNEY MCCLELLAND
STAFF REPORTER

It was five years ago in the Shaker Middle School production of "Bye Bye Birdie" that sophomore Jack Sutorius discovered his love of acting.

He is now one of the performers in junior Athena Pallotta's play, "Like Silly Puddy."

"I think that theater productions are the greatest way to discover what you're all about," Sutorius said, citing self-discovery as his reason for auditioning for New Stages. He made it through one day of auditions, three days of call-backs and what Sutorius called "grueling competition" to land his part in Pallotta's play.

Of the original 80 people who auditioned, only about half were selected for callbacks and even fewer for the final selections for the shows.

For the auditions, students were required to fill out a card with personal information, which was later used to randomly select the order of auditions. They then had to perform a chosen selection, such as a song, a car commercial, a slogan or a poem and read an excerpt from a play called "The Runaway."

"Some people recited the alphabet, while others sang 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.' One guy even told a pretty funny joke," chuckled Sutorius. Sutorius chose to sing Journey's "Don't Stop Believing," which he said has always spoken to him.

"I don't consider myself a very strong singer, but I felt pretty good about my performance at the audition" explained Sutorius, who thought of the song while waiting for his turn at the tryout.

Sutorius is involved in Senior Ensemble, was previously involved in Junior Ensemble and recently appeared as Sir Andrew Agucheek in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night, or What You Will."

"I always get really nervous about auditions, so this year I wanted to show the directors that I have confidence and that I've matured as an actor," said Sutorius, who still gets butterflies before auditioning.

As for the rehearsals, the performers begin with a theater warm-up, which comprises a variety of movements designed to relax and strengthen their bodies. They then rehearse the play either as a run-through or focus on certain sections that need more work. The director, junior Katie Campbell-Morrison, and the assistant director, senior Adrian McLaren, decide which sections of the play should be worked on each day and are in charge during the rehearsals.

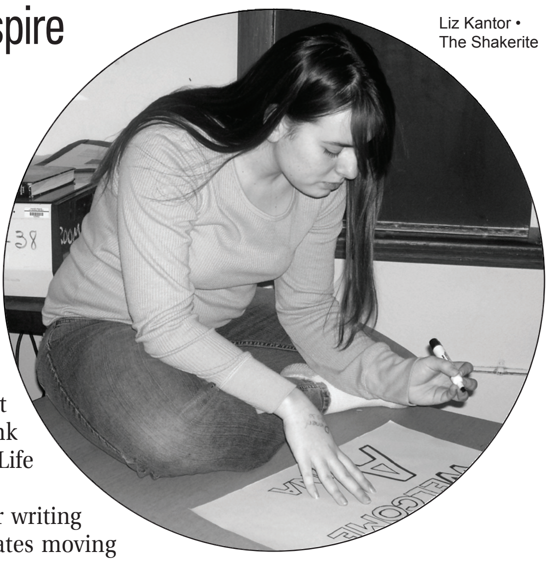
"I've been friends with [Campbell-Morrison] for a long time, so we work really well together," Sutorius said. "I also think that she and McLaren work well together," which he feels is the key to a successful performance.

In Pallotta's play, Sutorius plays a character named Eli. "I feel like the role was written for me because we have a perfect match of personality and character," Sutorius said. He said that he shared a similar experience with his character. "Like Silly Puddy" is about two friends who secretly like one another but feel as if they cannot tell the other their true feelings.

Though Sutorius has been in many theater productions, he enjoyed New Stages most. "New Stages is perhaps the greatest opportunity for Shaker Theater participants because it is student-run and student-managed," he said. "It gives everyone involved a sense of community and brings them together."

Photo by Dan Snider • The Shakerite

• College fears inspire writer to present 'Life (In Purple)'



Liz Kantor • The Shakerite

Junior Anastasia Frank is following in the footsteps of her two older brothers by being a playwright in this year's New Stages production.

"I really just want the audience to feel for and connect to the characters," said Frank about her New Stages play, "Life (In Purple)."

Frank spent first semester writing her story about two roommates moving into their dorm the first day of college.

"I think the play reflects my fears about college," Frank admitted.

"The hardest part of [New Stages] for the writers is learning to cope with the director taking over your play," Frank said. "But I have such a good relationship with [my director] that I'm not worried."

Frank feels her play wouldn't be nearly as good without her director, Marnie Zoldessy, who brings a new experience to the story.

"Since she was an assistant director last year, she really knows what she's doing and brings all of her knowledge into the play," Frank said.

Frank has high hopes for her play. "I hope that my play makes the audience feel happy and, hopefully, a little less nervous about college" Frank said.

• Teamwork, patience key to good direction

"As a director, my goal is to give the actors guidance and to make sure they know their goals, while still letting them make their own individual decisions," senior Anna Weinstein said.

Weinstein is directing "Age Ain't Nothin' But a Number" by Sherria Hughley. She does a lot of teamwork with Hughley because she feels it is important to keep most of Hughley's visions for the play intact.

"My favorite part of being a director is seeing the people accomplishing something and having fun," Weinstein said.

Weinstein has been involved in theater throughout her high school career and enjoys seeing everything come together as a director. While her job is to keep the actors on task and critique their performances, Weinstein still considers it very important for everyone to have fun and to get a lot out of their acting experiences.

Weinstein explained that since her job is to criticize her peers, she has to be careful not to be too authoritative.

"I don't want to make them feel like I'm attacking them," said Weinstein. " I want to let them know that I'm doing what's best for the show and that we are all working toward the same goal."

The most common criticism Weinstein gives is telling the actors to speak more clearly so the audience will be able to hear them. She also asks the actors to identify a goal. "If they have a goal in mind while they're acting, their performance will seem more realistic and believable for the audience" Weinstein said.

"Almost all of the actors accept my criticisms because they want to have the best performance possible," Weinstein said. "If someone doesn't agree with me then they can say it and we talk it out to see what works best for both of us," Weinstein feels it is very important to be polite while critiquing the rehearsals, as well as to have an encouraging tone of voice.

One of Weinstein's other jobs as a director is to select which actors are going to be in the play she is working on.

"I was looking for people with energy and people who had a certain kind of stage presence," said Weinstein, who is working with freshman Michael Carl, junior Monica Williams and seniors April Griffith, Nate O'Halloran and Maddie Weinland and . "I wanted people with raw talent, but also people who were enthusiastic." For Weinstein, the actors' main job is to bring the story to life and to make it believable for the audience.

Weinstein believes that New Stages is a wonderful opportunity for people who haven't been involved in acting before to get into it and also a great way to form new relationships.

In college, Weinstein is considering a double major in acting and psychology. "I am very passionate about acting and I don't want to give it up!" she said.

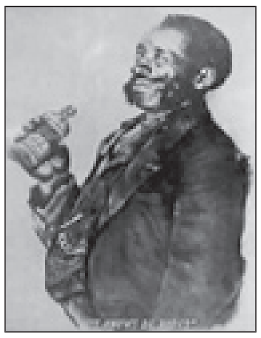
African-American screen images

Media historian Donald Bogle, author of the book "Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams," which analyzes African-American cinema and TV, identified five caricatures of African-Americans frequently depicted on screen.

THE "TOM"

Characters who are unable to express independence. They are hated, embarrassed and degraded by the whites. They never fight back and always remain kind to their oppressors.

THE "COON"

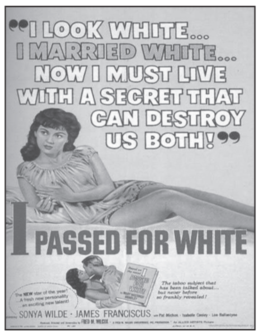


This individual is portrayed as the good-for-nothing, lazy or even criminal. Considered the most degrading stereotypical character in the media.

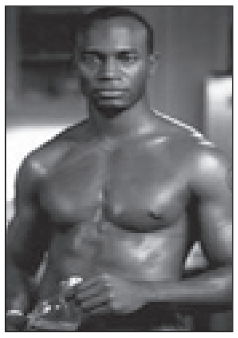
THE "MAMMY"

Female African-American characters who are strongly independent and who are often caretakers for Southern white children.

THE "TRAGIC MULATTO"


"I LOOK WHITE... I MARRIED WHITE... NOW I MUST LIVE WITH A SECRET THAT CAN DESTROY US BOTH!"
I PASSED FOR WHITE
SONYA WILDE · JAMES FRANCISCUS

A light-skinned African American, these characters often try to pass as Caucasian. They receive sympathy from white viewers who identify with their struggle to join the dominant group.



THE "BUCK"

The final figure Bogle highlights is a huge, sexually powerful black man.

Compiled By Josh Davidson

LABELS THRIVE ON AIRWAVES

BY WELSEY LOWERY
SHAKER SPEAKS EDITOR

Marketresearch.com has projected that by 2008 African Americans will represent a buying power of $921.3 million, about 34 percent of American's total investment in cable TV. According to a study done by the University of California Berkeley, African-Americans spend more time watching TV than other groups do.

However, many African-Americans have expressed concern with media portrayals. Outspoken filmmaker Spike Lee has openly expressed his concern with the portrayal of African Americans, and actor Bill Cosby has said that networks present images of African Americans that reinforce stereotypes.

African-American History teacher Joseph Houser feels that the media's portrayal of African Americans is inaccurate. "The media portrays only African Americans who steal, while showing very few positive images," he said.

Historically, African-American characters in literature, film and TV have been childish and clown-like. In this tradition, the first all-black sitcom to appear on TV was the "Amos 'n' Andy Show," which hit the small screen in the 1950s. The sitcom was originally a radio show featuring two Caucasian actors performing the voices of the African-American characters. Set in Harlem, "Amos 'n' Andy" centered on the activities of George Stevens, a conniving character always looking for ways to make a quick dollar.

Although the series was one of the most popular shows of its time, it also faced the criticism of many civil rights organizations. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was quick to join the protest, claiming the show characterized blacks as "buffoons."

The show was eventually banned from both Kenya and Western Nigeria, and, due to increasing protests, taken off the air in the United States.

A series of popular black sitcoms appeared in the 1970's including shows such as "That's My Mama," "Good Times," "Sanford and Son," "What's Happening?" and "The Jeffersons." While the shows gained a large white audience, critics claimed they associated blacks with stereotypical traits such as "fun loving," "happy-go-lucky" and "poor."

Some of these stereotypes were de-emphasized by the introduction of "The Cosby Show," "Frank's Place," and "A Different World" in the 1980s. These black sitcoms offered the first real opportunity for African-American actors to play key roles that were not based on stereotypes. However, many African Americans complained that the characters portrayed in these programs weren't faithful to African-American culture, that they were too "white."

In recent years TV has come under fire for portraying African Americans in thug-like roles. "The media likes to use stereotypes like saggy pants," said junior Joe Bonhart, who is African American.

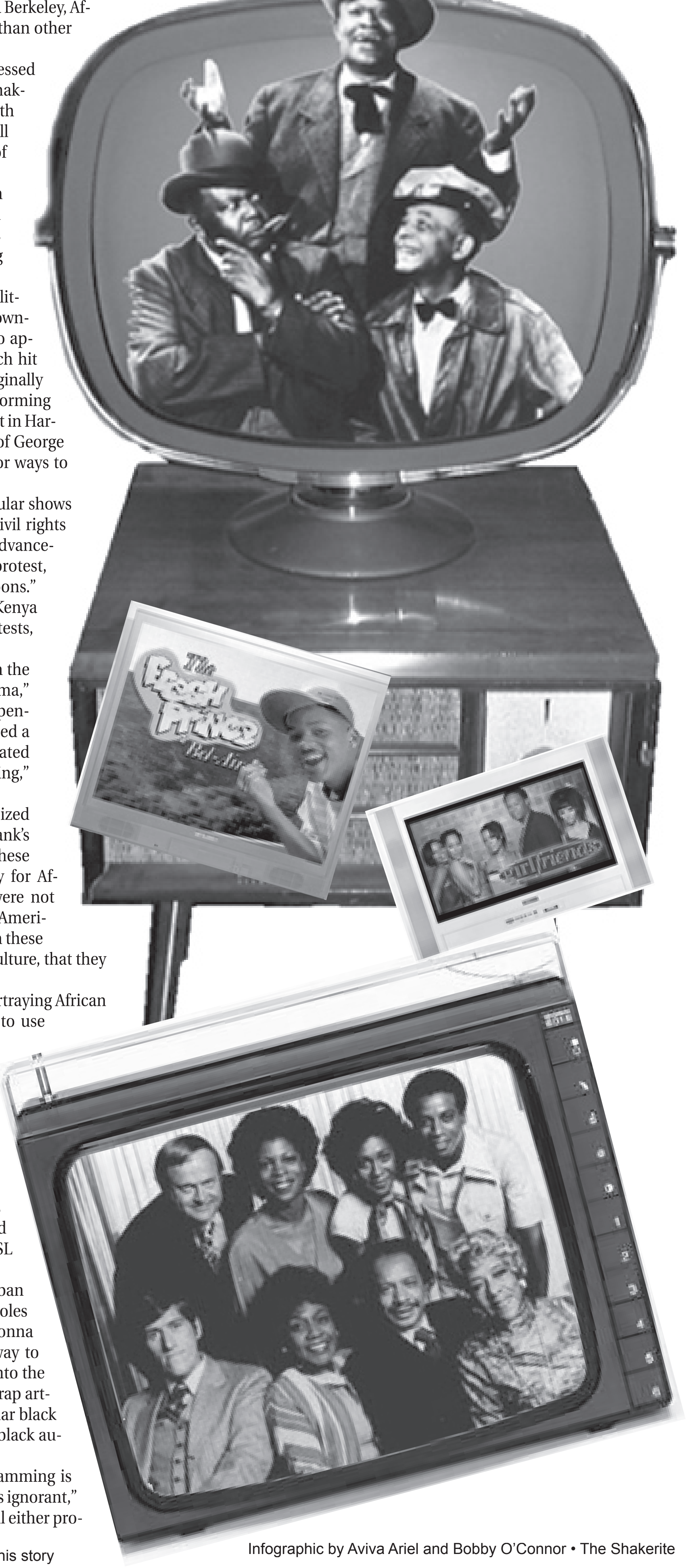
Bonhart believes that the way African Americans are portrayed on TV affects the way he is treated. "If they see a black man on TV with baggy pants doing something wrong, they automatically think I'm up to no good if my pants are sagging."

Houser thinks that the way African Americans are portrayed affects the way they are perceived by society. "These images are keeping the DSL (Dumb/Stupid/Lazy) stereotype going," he said.

The current hip-hop movement among urban youth has only encouraged networks to cast roles that play into the thug stereotype. Freshman Donna Polk believes TV producers feel as if the only way to reach an African-American audience is to play into the gangsta rap lifestyle portrayed by many popular rap artists. "The networks see people imitating a popular black rapper and think that the only way to reach the black audience is to market a thug lifestyle," said Polk.

Polk also believes that today's "black" programming is degrading to African-Americans. "They view us as ignorant," she said. "We have our own shows, but they are all either profane or sexually explicit."

Colin Jackson contributed to this story



Infographic by Aviva Ariel and Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

Halftime halts sports focus

DAVID O'CONNELL

Whatever happened to those Frisbee-catching dogs and their trainers? It's simple, it's exciting and even Steelers and Browns fans can cheer together when they see a Border Collie bounding for a free-flying Frisbee.

Halftime shows in professional sports have declined in significance and excitement. What is so complicated about a little amusement between periods of a competition? We don't come to sporting events to see classless, eccentric entertainment and find drunken fans running onto the field, like Browns fan Nathan Mallett. What's most amusing is the part where 250-pound linebacker James Harrison ultimately slams the inebriated fan into the dirt.

I must give credit to Mick Jagger; he performed at Super Bowl XL without either a walker or a wheel chair.

That was part of the drone from critics of the halftime show, denouncing the performance of the classic rock band The Rolling Stones, including lead singer Jagger who at 62 fronts a band that has played for 41 years.

A halftime show is a performance given between the first and second halves of a sporting event. It can consist of cheerleaders, marching bands playing music or other spectacles . Discussions about halftime shows are more heated than a halftime speech by Coach Sedmak on a Saturday afternoon. They are often talked about more than the games themselves, undermining the spectacle of sport. Rather than remembering Steeler wide receiver Antwaan Randle El's reverse touchdown pass that sealed a Pittsburgh title, we are still talking about Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction from two years ago. First it was "The Catch," then "The Drive," now it's "The Strip."

Three thousand fans running onto a field to join a concert is not the reason we watch the Super Bowl. It undermines football folklore. While I can appreciate the performances of rock legends such as Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones, I've never seen a traditional marching band play in the Super Bowl. (The University of Florida and Florida State University marching bands performed during Super Bowl XVIII in 1984.)

The Super Bowl stage is not the only place where the halftime demonstrations need mending. Fans who attended the Cavaliers game on New Year's Eve were greeted by the boy band Added FX at halftime. Fans greeted band members with boos and slurs. Maybe somebody should have told Added FX the era of boy bands is gone.

The boo birds also came out for the infamous lip-syncher Ashlee Simpson during the 2005 NCAA Football Championship. Fans were probably sitting there thinking, "Man, I could do better."

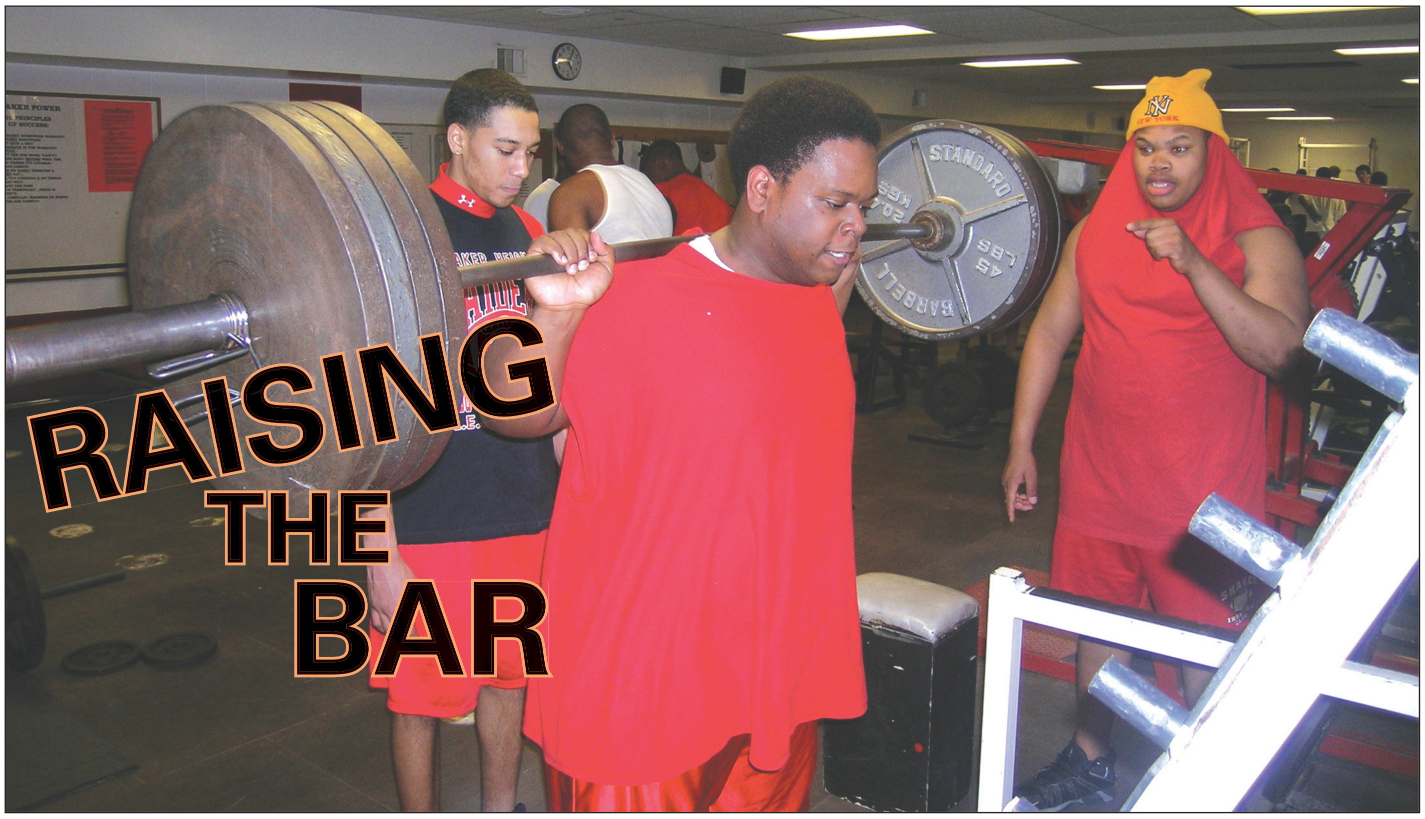
All halftime competitions that involve the winning of prizes must include kids. Nobody wants to see a 50-year-old man break his back trying to kick a field goal for a car, unless we get a car for putting up with worthless entertainment.

Furthermore, all races between hot dogs, mascots, sausages and pirogues and all other ridiculous paraphernalia should be banned.

And lastly, if any musical performance is to occur outside of these guiding principles, the performer must be an owner or contributor to the city the team resides in.

Are you listening, Usher?

RAISING THE BAR



David O'Connell • The Shakerite

PREPARING TO LIFT, senior Jeremy Lassiter squats 405 lbs. in the weight room. Lassiter set the records for bench press (405 lbs.) in January and squat (560 lbs.) in March 2005.

• Senior sets lifting records for bench press, squat

Senior football guard and shot-putter Jeremy Lassiter has set two weightlifting records for Shaker. He recently extended his bench record from 390 lbs. to 405 lbs. and holds the squat record for 560 lbs. The Shakerite asked Lassiter, the first Shaker student to bench more than 400 lbs., about his hoists.

Question & Answer

Q. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ATTAINING THESE RECORDS?

It's satisfying considering the hard work I put into the program.

Q. FORMER SHAKER FOOTBALL PLAYER MIKE GANTOUS HELD THE BENCH RECORD AT 385 LBS. HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BREAK RECORDS SET BY FORMER PLAYERS?

It feels good considering all of the great players that have come through this program. I stop and see Gantous at his restaurant every once in awhile. He gave me a hard time about breaking his record.

Q. WHO WAS MOST INFLUENTIAL IN HELPING YOU ATTAIN THE RECORDS?

Coach Hoskins. He kept motivating me and he assured me I'd be able to do it.

Q. WOULD YOU LIFT EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T PLAY SPORTS?

Yeah, because weight lifting is something that has grown on me and I've learned to enjoy it. It is also competitive in a way, trying to be stronger than the next guy.

Q. YOUR FOOTBALL PLAYING WEIGHT IS 280 LBS., BUT YOUR HEIGHT IS 5'8". HOW HAS THIS AFFECTED YOUR PLAYING ABILITIES?

My play speaks for itself. It gives me advantages as far as leverage against taller players but it's irritating because colleges overlook me.

Q. WHERE DOES YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH COME FROM?

It was genetic luck; no one in my family is really strong but my dad is pretty strong for a short man.

Q. HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED OLYMPIC WEIGHT LIFTING OR THE STRONGEST MAN COMPETITION?

Nah. However, professional weight lifters are the most under-appreciated athletes in the world. People think they're fat strong guys, but they're remarkable athletes.

Q. HOW DID YOU EARN THE NICKNAME 'JUICE'?

There was a show that used to come on called the "PJs." There was a little fat boy on the show with an afro named Juice. Everyone started calling me that since. The name has stuck since fifth grade and even teachers and coaches call me that.

Q. HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOUR RECORDS WILL REMAIN UNBROKEN?

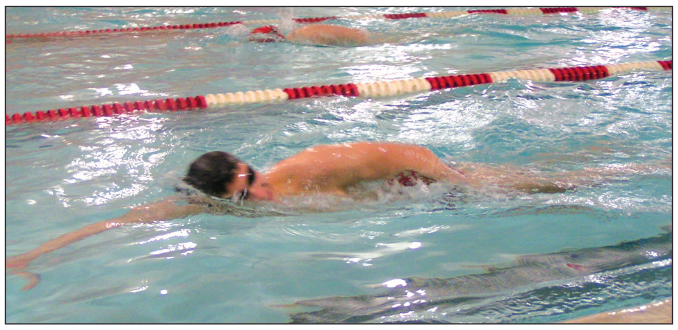
For a long while. I just know it will hold up for a while.

Compiled by David O'Connell

Swimming earns LEL title; basketball on the mend

JUNIOR NICK WINBUSH contests a lay-up against St. Edward Feb. 4. The Eagles defeated the Raiders 73-58. On the season, the men's basketball team was 11-7 at press time. "With the way we're playing now, I wish we would've gotten off to a quicker start," head coach Bob Wonson said.

David O'Connell • The Shakerite



Dan Snider • The Shakerite

WORKING THE FREESTYLE stroke, senior Jack Reed practices at the Woodbury pool. Both the men's and women's swimming teams grabbed LEL titles. At Feb 1. sectionals, the men's team placed third and the women's team placed second.

TEAM'S EARLY TRIALS LEAD TO UNIFIED STYLE

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

PUTTING UP A jump shot, junior Blair Wise runs a drill during practice. The women's team has a 15-5 record. "If anything, winning tough games, coming back from behind during games and their overall effort in becoming a better team has helped to unify the team," assitant coach Yvonne Hortsman said.

BY EMILY GRANNIS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sprinting down the court, freshman point guard Jasmine Jones dribbles three times to the right, once left, twice more right and then leaps into the air and hurls the basketball across halfcourt to a waiting teammate, Karisma Penn.

"I know her and I know where she's going to be," Jones said. "When her hand goes up, I just know I gotta get it to her."

The Jones-Penn connection in the Raiders' 64-46 defeat of Cleveland Heights Feb. 8 is one reason the women's basketball team finished 15-5 and earned a fourth seed in their playoff bracket in a season during which three parents were prohibited from attending games. During practice Nov. 3, a parent assaulted varsity head coach Don Readance, after which Readance expressed his desire to move on and focus on basketball. Later in the season, other confrontations with officials resulted in parents being expelled from games.

Qi Wang • The Gristmill

DRIBBLING DOWN THE court, freshman Jasmine Jones approaches the paint during Shaker's Dec. 7 game against Valley Forge. The Raiders defeated the Patriots 56-49.

"Generally, there has been some inappropriate conduct," Athletic Director Dave Sedmak said. The athletic department declined to comment further because the season is not finished and some issues may not yet be resolved.

Readance attributed the team's ability to focus and win to the coaching staff and the players. Assistant coach Yvonne Horstman said the team chose not to dwell on those events.

"Throughout the season, we simply continued to emphasize the importance of learning to handle adversity, of keeping your composure even when it appears things aren't going your way," she stated in an e-mail interview.

Penn, a freshman forward, said the team knew they had to get past the problems.

"At the beginning it was rough because of the drama that happened with the parent," she said. "I don't think it was a big deal because we knew we couldn't let it affect us."

Penn cited the home game against Mentor as their best. Though Shaker lost by three points, the Raiders hadn't come that close to beating Mentor in years, according to Penn. Sophomore guard Aja Fitten and Horstman also consider the Mentor game to be the best of the season.

"We played with the confidence and unity that we've been looking for all season. We executed very well and simply outplayed one of the best teams in the region for most of the game," Horstman said. "To overcome a 12-point deficit against a team that has been beating others by 20 points and more consistently illustrates our growing confidence and belief in ourselves."

Fitten also called it "the hardest loss. Tosha [Robinson] hit a three when we needed it, and we were playing real good defense and the whole crowd started jumping up and down."

Overall, Horstman said she is pleased with the season so far."If anything, winning tough games, coming back from behind during games and their overall effort in becoming a better team has helped to unify the team," she said. "These kids are still learning what they are capable of; they are only scratching the surface of their potential. And while, on the whole, they play well together, they are capable of even more."

Readance is also satisfied with the team's overall performance.

"I'm as pleased and as proud as can be," he said. "We really grew a lot as a team, not just basketball-wise, but personally as well."

> "We played with the confidence and unity that we've been looking for all season."
>
> Yvonne Horstman • Assistant coach

Rough end sets tone for hockey playoffs

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

After reaching the state finals last year, the Shaker hockey team knew that living up to the achievements of the 2004-2005 state finalist squad would be tough.

It started off well with an overtime victory over Padua, but the season didn't end like the Raiders expected.

"The leadership was there, but we missed the depth of last year's team," junior defender Kevin Glass said.

As it turned out, the Raiders finished the season 8-12-2 and fifth in the Red North after finishing first last year.

David O'Connell • The Shakerite

JUNIOR DAVID MAYS shows his disappointment as he enters the locker room after a 6-1 loss to St. Edward Feb 3.

The regular season culminated Feb. 4 with a 6-2 loss to University School, the second loss on the year to their top rink rival. They lost 4-3 to US Dec. 9.

"Hopefully things will go better against US in the future," senior captain Brandon Hemmelgarn said.

Those were only two of the eight tough losses the Raiders suffered in the Red North this season. Shaker is the only public school in the Red North, and the conference always showcases some of Ohio's elite teams.

This season, 21-4-3 Lake Catholic won the division, beating out 22-8-2 St. Edward and 16-9-3 Padua.

"We started off relatively well," sophomore forward Sam Weir said. "We could play with most of the teams in the Red North."

The season has been tough for the typically raucous home crowd, as well, which was silenced and sent home with gut-wrenching losses more often than they are accustomed to.

The 4-3 loss on a final-minute goal to US and the 7-6 overtime loss to St. Ignatius embody the Raiders' disappointing season.

"We gained a lot of experience with the close games, and hopefully we can learn from the mistakes," Hemmelgarn said.

The squad defeated West Geauga 10-0 Feb. 16, defeated Brecksville 5-1 Feb. 19 and played Trinity Feb. 25.

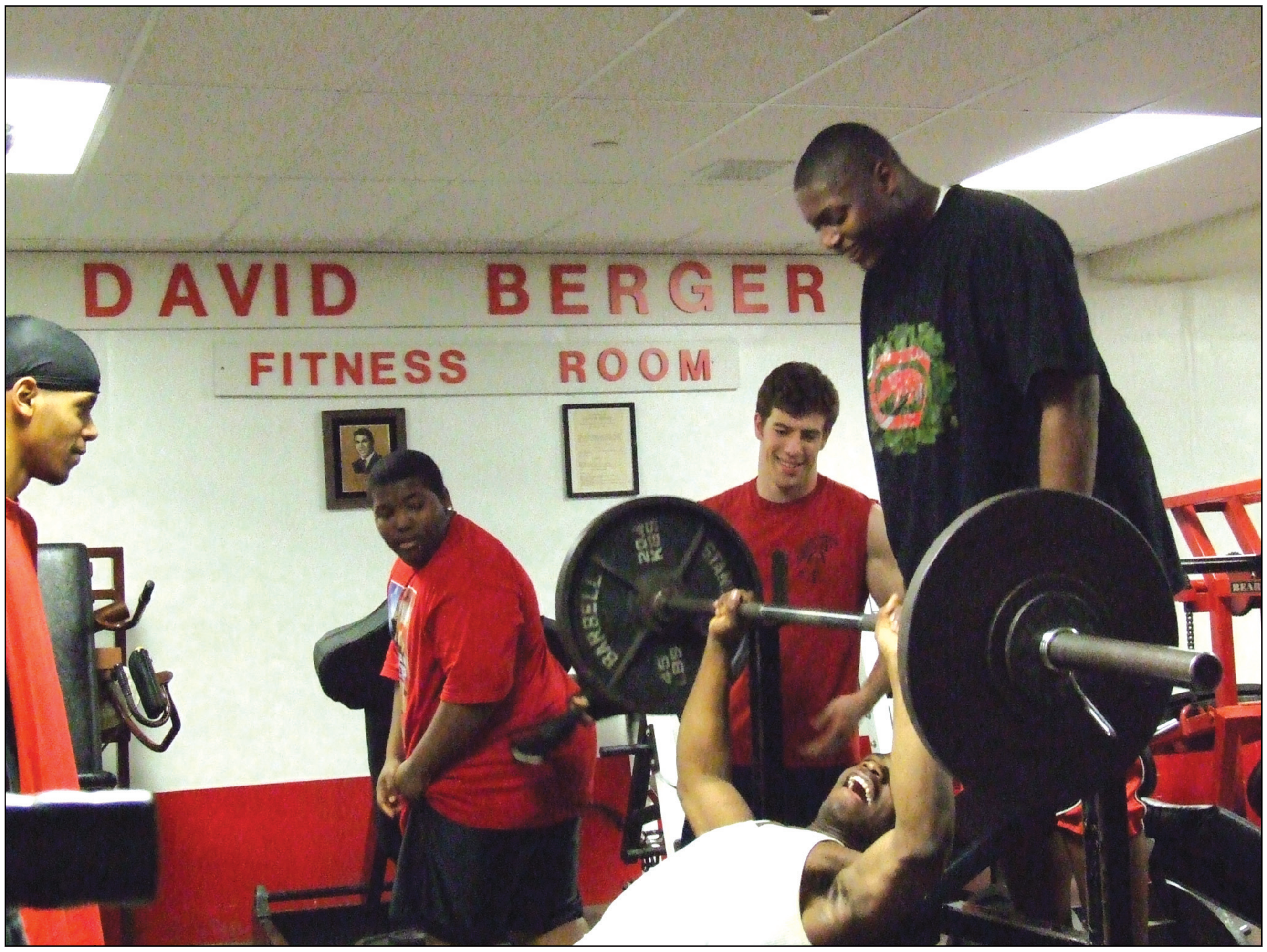
David O'Connell • The Shakerite

JUNIOR KEVIN GLASS stares down his St. Edward opponent at the face-off while senior center David Goldsmith awaits the puck during a 6-1 loss Feb. 3. Shaker finished the regular season 8-12-2 and fifth in the Red North. The Raiders played Trinity Feb. 25 after defeating Brecksville 5-1 Feb. 19.

UPDATE: COACH GOES DISTANCE FOR CHARITY

Football and JV baseball coach Rob Senor finished the "P.F. Chang's Rock 'n' Roll Arizona Marathon" in 5:09:59 Jan. 15. (Discussed in The Shakerite Oct. 28, "Coach goes the distance for charity.") Senor ran with the "Team in Training" organization to help raise money for Hodgkin's disease patients and research. He finished 5,230th of 10,400 and 367th in the men's 25-29-year-old division. He was among the 8,031 finishers of the marathon. Ethiopian Shimelis Mola won the men's marathon with a time of 2:13:08. - Compiled by Teddy Cahill

MOVIE EVOKES MEMORY OF FALLEN OLYMPIAN



Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

STUDENTS WORK OUT in the David Berger memorial fitness room. The memorial was dedicated to him in 1985, when Berger's parents donated money to equip the facility. In addition to the weight room, Shaker honors Berger by recognizing a senior for excellence in athletic and academic abilities.

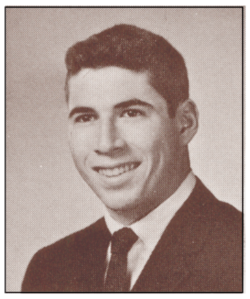
• Berger's father recalls son, Israeli teammates as individuals

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Some film fans are questioning the nomination of Steven Spielberg's "Munich" for best picture, but few can base their critiques on a personal connection.

Benjamin Berger can.

A Shaker resident and father of David Berger, one of 11 Israeli athletes taken hostage and killed at the 1972 Munich Olympics, Berger saw the movie in a private screening.



DAVID BERGER

"My chief criticism was that the athletes weren't displayed as individuals," Berger said. "They were described in mass and you had no feeling that they were individual athletes."

David ('62) was a member of the varsity wrestling and golf teams and The Shakerite staff. "He was always a good student and was a National Merit finalist," Berger said.

David competed for Israel in the Olympics as a weight lifter after starting to train competitively at age 14. At that time, weight lifting wasn't a very well-known Olympic sport, yet the Shaker athlete always dreamed of competing in the Olympics.

"He always thought he could make it," Berger said.

After immigrating to Israel in 1970, David competed in a number of international athletic events. David qualified for the Israeli Olympic team in 1972. He competed on Sept. 2 of that year but was eliminated in an early round.

Three days later, on the early morning of Sept. 5, the Munich Olympics were overcome by tragedy.

Eight terrorists, part of a Palestinian organization called "Black September," infiltrated the Olympic Village and broke into the apartments housing Israeli athletes. They demanded that 234 Palestinians and other non-Arabs jailed in Israel be released and allowed safe passage to Egypt.

Two men resisted the attackers and were subsequently killed. The remaining nine athletes, including David, were held hostage. Later that day, during a failed rescue attempt by the German police at an airport, all of the detained athletes were killed.

Those watching the telecast of the event were led to believe that the athletes had survived the kidnapping and all the terrorists were killed. "I really didn't believe it because if he [David] was free, he would call," Berger said.

It was only minutes after the false reports came out that ABC broadcaster Jim McKay told the American public of the tragedy that had occurred during the botched rescue attempt. "They're all gone," McKay announced to the TV audience.

Berger doesn't only blame the German police. "A lot of mistakes were made by everybody more so than by them," he said.

The movie "Munich" captures the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. It follows a squad specially assigned by an Israeli intelligence agency to assassinate the organizers of the Munich attack.

The Olympics attract non-violent statements, as well. The U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics ended the Olympic dreams of Israeli citizen Yossi Katz, who spoke to Israeli Culture Club Feb. 2. The U.S. team and teams from allied nations pulled out of those games to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Katz would have been on the Israeli Olympic team in 1980 if it weren't for the boycott. "Berger was a hero to me," he said. "In an Israeli national sports institute, there's what they call the 'Hall of the 11' where I trained so [their memory] is always in my eyes and in my heart."

The David Berger Weight Room is one way Shaker honors the memory of the fallen athlete. It was named after him in 1985 after donations from Berger's parents help equip the facility. Shaker also gives out the "David M. Berger Award," which is "awarded to a senior who demonstrates excellence in scholastics and athletic ability."

Former football and baseball standout Arden McWilliams won the award in 2004. "It was an honor to be recognized by an award representing someone who has had such historical importance," he said.

Still, with all of these honors, football coach Mark Hoskins believes that Shaker hasn't done enough to honor David. "The only people who have a clear understanding of who David Berger was are athletes and those who participate in synagogue activities," he said.

David's father has tried to uphold his son's legacy so that he will never be forgotten at Shaker. "He should be remembered as a great all-around person, a great student and a great athlete," Berger said.

A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
MUNICH
DECEMBER 23
www.munichmovie.com

LEGACY OF MUNICH VICTIM SURVIVES

A 1962 Shaker graduate, David Berger:

- was a member of varsity wrestling and golf teams
- was a Shakerite staff member
- started weightlifting competitively at age 14
- was a national youth weightlifting champion
- qualified for the 1972 Israeli Olympic team
- entered Olympics at age 28
- entered as a weightlifter
- was eliminated in early rounds

The "David M. Berger Award" is awarded to senior demonstrating excellence in athletics and scholastics

The Shaker weight room was endowed by his parents and named in his memory.